

ARAB TIMES

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Restoration of Parliament

No solution yet

HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah was quoted on Monday as saying the government had no preconceived plans on the possible restoration of an elected Parliament.

"The government has no cut-and-dried solution or approaches before the dialogue ends," said Sheikh Saad in statements published in the Kuwaiti press.

"Some people are circulating rumours which the government is not willing to discuss because they are not true."

Sheikh Saad's latest statements were made to local journalists whom he invited to a Ramadan fast-breaking banquet in the course of the dialogue. The dialogue's final round was started on Saturday with representatives of Kuwaiti professional societies.

"I am satisfied with the way the dialogue is being conducted," Sheikh Saad said.

He said Saturday's meeting "showed the existence of mutual understanding as to the importance of the current dialogue on the issue of the return of the Parliament, and averting the drawbacks of the previous experiments."

The Kuwaiti Parliament was dissolved in 1986 while the country was target of Iranian threats at the height of the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war.

NEWSWATCH

Mideast

Anti-nuclear weapons: A senior Arab military expert urged Arab states to develop at least anti-nuclear weapons to achieve a power balance with Israel, an Abu Dhabi publication reported Monday.

"Israel now has 100 to 200 tactical nuclear heads, each with a destructive capacity of 20,000 tons of explosives," Hassan Al-Bassam, director of the Arab League's Military Affairs Department, said in an interview with the United Arab Emirates Air Force magazine.

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Jews arrive in Israel: About 1,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants arrived in Israel on Sunday in a Passover airlift from Eastern Europe by the Israeli, Romanian and Hungarian airlines.

Israeli military censors said they had temporarily lifted censorship on coverage of Soviet Jewish arrivals ahead of the week-long Jewish holiday commemorating the Biblical exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

Officials at Ben-Gurion airport near Tel Aviv said 500 more Soviet Jews would arrive on Monday before the start of Passover on Monday night.

Compensation for 'death': A Cairo labourer was shocked and surprised when he received more than \$6,000 from Saudi Arabia to compensate for his death there in an accident 10 months, Egyptian newspapers reported on Monday.

They said the man, named as Fathi Abdel-Aziz, reported to police that Saudi authorities sent him personal belongings, compensation money worth 25,000 Saudi riyals for his family and a document confirming that he had been buried.

Europe

Latvia to declare independence: Latvia will join its Baltic neighbours in declaring independence from the Soviet Union, the head of the current Latvian Parliament predicted on Monday.

Anatolij Gorbunovs, president of the Latvian Supreme Soviet, told a news conference he believed the split in the Latvian Communist Party over the weekend would only boost the drive for independence from the Soviet Union.

"It is difficult to say what kind of independence the deputies will declare, but about the fact that independence will be declared, about that I have no doubts," he said during a visit to Switzerland to attend a symposium on Latvia. (Reuters)

Earlier Report Page 6

Greek right form government: Greece's Conservative Party, one seat short of an absolute majority in Parliament after Sunday's election, won the support of a single centrist deputy on Monday and can now form its first government since 1981.

Leader of the rightist Dimotiki Party, Costis Stefanopoulos, said he would support the conservative New Democratic Party in Parliament after meeting its leader, Constantine Mitsotakis.

"Dimotiki will support a New Democratic government in Parliament," he told reporters. This gives New Democracy a 151 absolute majority in the 300-seat Parliament. (Reuters)

Earlier Report Page 11

Scandinavian Star toll 200: Rescuers found bodies, many of them children, piled deep in cabins of the gutted ferry Scandinavian Star on Monday and police said the death toll could rise to 200.

The toll from the blaze which engulfed the ferry south of Oslo Fjord on Saturday is still officially 75 dead and 60 missing but about 100 bodies have already been taken off the ship and police said as many as 50 to 100 could still be on board.

Earlier Report Page 5

Ferry catches fire, 1 dead: The ferry Norrona Williams docked safely in west Wales early Monday after a "mystery" fire in which a crewman died and a number of passengers were airlifted off by helicopters.

Fire engines and two ambulances were standing by on the quayside while 200 passengers and 75 crew waited to disembark.

An investigation began into the cause of the blaze which broke out 34 miles out in the Irish Sea on the way to the Irish Republic.

Details Page 5

UK prison riots: Inmates at seven more British prisons rebelled against their guards Sunday in attempt to show solidarity with group of prisoners who have occupied the Strangeways prison for eight days.

The spreading disturbances, including one that began Saturday evening at Dartmoor prison 180 miles (290 km) west of London, put the British penal system through one of its worst days ever. "The British prison system has survived very well a very testing day today," Home Office Minister David Mellor said.

Details Page 5

IRA blast mine, 4 dead: Four British soldiers were killed on Monday when an IRA mine blew their heavily-armoured Land Rover off a country lane in the bloodiest guerrilla attack of the year in Northern Ireland.

Details Page 5

Police shoot curfew violators, raid hideout of Kashmir independence leader

More than 200 people have been arrested in the search for the kidnappers, an official spokesman said.

Authorities have imposed a 24-hour curfew with no breaks on Srinagar, summer capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state, since the kidnapping on Friday afternoon.

State officials said police so far have no clues on the whereabouts of the hostages.

Indian security forces yesterday raided the hideout of a leader of Kashmir's independence movement and captured six people, including four top militants.

But Muhammad Yaseen Malik, the newly named chief commander of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), escaped capture after jumping from the fourth

storey of the house, suffering internal injuries.

Indian state television said yesterday Malik was believed to have been killed.

But police in Srinagar today said Malik escaped as he was being taken by ambulance to hospital.

Charged security forces today stopped and searched ambulances, and city hospitals have been cordoned off in an apparent attempt to recapture him.

A senior official said stern action will be taken against the police officer who was entrusted to take Malik to hospital.

JKLF chief spokesman Javed Ahmed Mir said Malik was safe and recovering in another hideout.

Musheer-ul-Haq, vice-chancellor of Kashmir University, was hauled out of his car at gunpoint on Friday.

A senior official of the Hindustan Machine Tools watch factory and his secretary were seized around the same time in another part of Srinagar, hoisted by anti-Indian insurgency.

More than 200 people have been killed in Kashmir since mid-January when Muslim militants intensified their campaign for independence from India.

The daughter of Indian Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed was kidnapped in December and freed five days later after the government released five jailed Kashmiri militants.

AMMAN, April 9, (Reuters): Muslim militants waging war against Israel in the occupied territories say the PLO should abandon the pursuit of peace with the Jewish state before it would agree to fall in line with mainstream Palestinians.

A spokesman for the Palestine National Council said yesterday that Hamas, the Islamic resistance movement, told Palestinian leaders in Amman that it would join the PNC only if it abandoned the peace strategy.

Radical Palestinian leaders, who agree with its political aims, had earlier called on Hamas to join the PLO-dominated unified leadership of the anti-Israeli uprising in the occupied territories.

At its last session in Algiers in

November 1988, the PNC, the Palestine Liberation Organization's parliament-in-exile, declared an independent Palestinian state that would co-exist with Israel.

The movement said in a memorandum to the Amman meeting, called to discuss how to revise membership of the 45-strong PNC, that it wanted two-fifths of the seats to reflect what it saw as its strength in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Ramadan timings

Imaak: 3.56 am
Iftar: 6.12 pm



His Highness the Amir on Sunday inspected the newly inaugurated old market in downtown Kuwait.

Mich'aal Al Ahmed Al Jaber, Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al Ahmed and Sheik Majid Jaber Hmoud Al Jaber.

His Highness was received upon arrival by Public Works Minister Abdurahman Ibrahim Al Houli and State Minister



for Municipal Affairs Mohammed Al Sayed Abd Al Mohsen Al Rifaie.

The Amir spent some time at the diwania of elderly people inside the complex where he had coffee and

congratulated the audience on the occasion of Ramadan.

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah received on Monday at his diwan at the Bayan Palace, chairman and members of the Kuwait Journalists Association on the occasion of electing a new board.

Shared destiny with Iraq: Nawaf

'Kuwait's Army is Arab and prepared for sacrifice'
Iraq to expel US diplomat; Saddam vows weapons use only in self defence

KUWAIT'S Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber has declared that any aggression on Iraq is an "aggression against all the Arab nation and every Arab individual."

Speaking in an interview with weekly Al Yaqatha published in this week's edition, Sheikh Nawaf said Iraq has the right to "practice its full sovereignty over Iraqi lands and block mobilisation of evil and aggressive forces against its territory."

"If Iraq had to act to support this right (of self defence) and to emphasise the principle of national sovereignty, then this is not a matter that should be viewed as a violation of the rights of others," Sheikh Nawaf told the magazine.

Iraq, meanwhile, has moved to counter Israeli and Western fears that it might attack Israel with chemical weapons but said yesterday it was expelling an American diplomat in a further sign of worsening relations with the West.

President Saddam Hussein was reported as saying that his country's intentions were peaceful and his warning that it might destroy half of Israel was in response to Israeli threats.

"Any weapon we possess ... would not be used but for self-defence ... peace is a sacred slogan in our policy and in our programme," the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted him as saying.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the main bridge between the Arabs, Israel and the West, met Saddam in Baghdad on Saturday in a bid to calm Middle East tensions after the Iraqi president's April 2 chemical weapons threat and subsequent Israeli missile strikes.

Mubarak later proposed that all weapons of mass destruction should be eliminated from the region, a broad hint that Iraq is not the only state in the region which possesses such weapons.

President Saddam Hussein confirmed on Saturday that his country possessed chemical weapons and threatened to "let our fire eat half of Israel if it tries to wage anything against Iraq."

Iraq's announcement that it was expelling an American diplomat was the latest twist in a series of disputes with the West, beginning with Iraq's execution of London-based Iranian-born journalist Farzad Bazoft on charges of spying.

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Nepal free!

Joy as Birendra bows

KATMANDU, April 9, (AP): Tens of thousands of Nepalese paraded through Kathmandu today to celebrate a royal proclamation establishing a multiparty political system.

Following the announcement of King Birendra's action on government-run radio and television stations shortly before midnight yesterday, thousands of residents of Kathmandu cheered and whistled

from rooftops. Many people burned torches, and fireworks exploded in the night sky in this mountainous Himalayan kingdom.

"This is the people's victory," many chanted. Rock and roll music boomed from radios in many homes.

But amid the tumultuous joy, relatives wept silently at two hospitals to mourn the deaths of a man and a boy who were shot the night before.

The shootings came shortly after King Birendra made the announcement.

At the army hospital, B.M. Bajracharya said his brother-in-law, Pusparatna Shakya, was shot and killed by government troops when he rushed out of his house into the curfew-bound streets upon hearing the royal proclamation on television.

A 12-year-old boy was shot to death, his sister said at Bir hospital. Doctors at the hospital said five other people were being treated for bullet wounds.

The people who brought the shooting victims to the hospital reported at least 10 other people had been killed and their bodies taken away by the troops, according to the doctors who spoke on condition of anonymity.

But the doctor said the people who came to the hospital told him government forces opened fire in at least three neighbourhoods.

INTERNATIONAL

Demo in Mongolia despite decree

BEIJING, April 9. (Agencies): Mongolian President Punsalmaagiin Ochirbat has banned demonstrations that threaten state security or disrupt public tranquility, the official newspaper *Unen* said yesterday.

China's official Xinhua news agency, reporting from the Mongolian capital of Ulan Bator, quoted *Unen* as saying the regulation came in the form of a president decree.

It appeared intended to head off protests by Mongolia's fledgling opposition parties during an extraordinary congress of the ruling communist party scheduled to consider political reforms beginning tomorrow.

But residents in the capital said by telephone that about 3,000 people massed in the city's central Sukhbaatar square despite the decree to protest against the government and demand faster democratic changes.

The regulation says Mongolian citizens can take part in demonstrations and rallies "aimed at developing and consolidating the state apparatus and in the interests of the working people," Xinhua said paraphrasing it. Applications for demonstrations must be submitted to local governments a week in advance.

The regulation bans demonstrations that "are against the state constitution, detrimental to friendship with other countries and to the unity of the Mongolian people, threatening state security or people's safety and disrupting people's tranquility or the normal work of a government department," Xinhua said.

The country whose friend Mongolian leaders prize is the Soviet Union, Mongolia's patron ever since it helped a small Mongol revolutionary army win independence from China in 1921.

New opposition groups have held repeated demonstrations in Ulan Bator's central square since late last year to demand democratic reform following the example of Eastern Europe.

In response, Mongolia's ruling communist party shuffled top party and government ranks in March and promised free elections, but the opposition groups said they did not trust the party and will continue to demonstrate.

At last month's annual session of the communist-dominated legislature, the great people's hural, many deputies denounced the demonstrations as disruptive and called for a law to regulate them.

People jubilant over democratic victory



King Birendra announced that he was lifting a 30-year-old ban on opposition political parties after meeting with opposition leaders. (Reuter wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sajad in Amman: Pakistan's Shura council speaker Wasim Sajad conferred in Amman Sunday with Jordanian monarch King Hussein on Mideast developments and means of boosting Islamic solidarity.

An announcement said that they discussed dangers of the So iet Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine and the importance of resisting that new Zionist threat to the Palestine cause and the Arab countries.

Sajad further conveyed a message from his president to King Hussein on issues of concern in the Islamic peoples and bilateral co-operation between Jordan and Pakistan. (Kuna)

Indian electrocuted: An Indian man was electrocuted Sunday when he placed his brother's suitcase on a baggage scale at Bombay's international airport, Press Trust of India said.

Farooq Abdallah, 40, was killed when he touched the weighing machine at Sahar airport, the news agency said. He was checking the bag for his brother, who was flying in an undetermined Saudi Arabian destination.

Airport authorities checked other baggage scales and found a second machine that was also giving electrical shocks, Press Trust quoted airport sources as saying. (AP)

15 hurt in fight for cigarettes: Fifteen people were injured in as bandits, smugglers and villagers fought over foreign cigarettes worth about \$1 million at a village to the southern Chittagong district of Bangladesh in the last two days, the Bengali daily *English* said today.

Five of the injured were in serious condition and had been admitted into hospital.

Bus-truck crash kills 13: A minibus collided with a truck on the ancient Grand Trunk road outside Islamabad on Sunday, killing 13 people and injuring six, police said.

All the casualties were travelling in the bus, the driver of the truck fled the scene, according to Pakistan's official news agency.

The Grand Trunk road links Pakistan's border city of Peshawar in India's teeming western city of Calcutta. It was made famous to the West by author Rudyard Kipling, whose protagonist in the book "Kim" wandered through India on the Grand Trunk.

Today, many cars travel the road at break-neck speeds, swerving around horse-drawn carts, bicycles and motorised rickshaws.

Number of murders in US up in 1989

WASHINGTON, April 9. (AP): The number of murders in the United States increased 4 per cent last year, up from the 3 per cent rise the year before, according to FBI statistics.

Overall, violent crimes increased 5 per cent while property crimes rose 2 per cent, according to the figures released yesterday by FBI Director William S. Sessions.

The statistics are based on reports to police of crime index offences: Murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft and arson. The FBI did not release statistics on the number of murders or other crimes, just the percentage

changes.

While many may think a smaller city is safer, that didn't hold true for murder.

The number of murders in cities of 10,000 in 49,999 increased a whopping 12 per cent last year. At the same time, cities of 50,000 to 99,999 saw a 5 per cent decline.

For larger cities, the number of murders rose 8 per cent in cities of 100,000 to 249,999; 2 per cent in cities of 250,000 to 499,999; and 7 per cent in cities of 500,000 and more.

The number of murderers declined 3 per cent in rural areas and in cities of fewer than 10,000 people, and decreased 2 per cent in suburban areas.

Good news for Salmiya residents
Grand opening

Band Box laundry for carpets and clothes

BAND BOX

Branch No. 1

Salmyia, Salem Al-Mubarak Street, close to Sultan Center, opposite Fulfullet Americana

Band Box, the title of quality

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- ② Special section for quick services

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2. Farwaniya behind Holiday Inn, Abdul Mejid Al Behbehani Building.
3. Salmyia Abdul Karim Al Khataib St., Muheeb Al Othayniah Building.
4. Salmyia Salem Al Mubarak St., close to Sultan Center, Opp. Fulfullet Americana.

Nepal lifts ban on parties

KATHMANDU, April 9. (UPI): More than 100,000 jubilant Nepalese poured into the streets of Kathmandu today waving flags and shouting slogans in celebration of King Birendra's decision to allow multi-party democracy in the kingdom.

Many of the revelers apparently forgot the city was still under a curfew last night but authorities did not. Police opened fire in several areas, killing at least two people, hospital sources and witnesses said.

The curfew was lifted at dawn today and residents quickly filled the streets, many to celebrate their victory and others to go about business. The Hindu kingdom's shrines were filled with worshippers.

"We are very happy that the partyless system has been removed," said Gunu Midu Ranjan, 56, owner of the G.N. Gold Store in Kathmandu. "Now things will be better because people will have political freedom—freedom to speak, to do anything."

The king announced his decision to lift a 29-year ban on political parties last night, following six weeks of often violent clashes between pro-democracy demonstrators and police that have left at least 50 dead.

Residents of Kathmandu shouted from their rooftops and exploded firecrackers when they heard the news.

The celebrations intensified this morning when the 48-hour curfew was lifted and Nepalese could leave their houses.

"We feel very proud today," said Saroj Lama, waving the red and white flag of the Nepali Congress Party. "We are free for the first time in 30 years."

Thousands of people waved flags of other once-banned parties as they walked or rode through the city streets.

Hundreds of people went to Bir hospital in the hopes of seeing the movement's ailing leader Ganesh Man Singh, 75, head of the Nepali Congress Party.

"For the last 30 years we've had to struggle for this day," Singh said, sitting on the edge of his hospital bed in crowded room 14. "Now the day has come."

Singh said the next step will be to organise a multi-party political system.

"To maintain it will be more difficult," he said.

Mamohanan Adhikary, secretary general of Marxist-oriented Nepal Community Party called Birendra's announcement "a partial victory."

"The constitution has to be made more democratic and the government needs to function in a responsible and democratic manner," he said at the hospital.

The pro-democracy movement was launched Feb 18 by the Nepali Congress Party and seven leftist parties. Since then the Nepalese kingdom of 19 million has been beset by widespread strikes, violent demonstrations and the forced closing of schools.

Hundreds of tourists joined the crowds, cheerfully letting Nepalese douse them with the red powder which Hindus use to celebrate auspicious occasions.

But hotel managers said many of their guests were still trying to leave. "We are looking at a very bleak situation for the next months, the next one month at least," one said.

Dhaka lifts journal ban

DHAKA, April 9. (Reuter): President Hossain Mohammad Ershad today lifted bans on one daily and two weekly newspapers after an appeal from editors and journalists, Bangladesh's official BSS news agency said.

"President Ershad expressed hope at a meeting with the editors and journalist union leaders that the publications will practise responsible journalism," it added.

The government banned the *Meillat* Daily last December, accusing it of inciting people to topple Ershad, who seized power in a 1982 bloodless coup.

Meillat is owned by retired army colonel Syed Faruk Rehman, who helped lead a bloody coup in 1975 in which Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the country's first president, was assassinated with most members of his family.

Publishing of the weekly *Ase Din Jai* was halted last August after complaints it had ridiculed Islam.

Unrest in far western China

Official sources neither confirm nor deny

BEIJING, April 9. (AP): Ethnic disturbances have taken place recently in Muslim areas of China's far western border with the Soviet Union, a Western diplomat confirmed today.

The diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said an official from the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region had acknowledged there was truth to reports of civil unrest coming out of the area.

The diplomat could provide no other details of the disturbances, which took place in the past few days around Kashgar, a bazaar city near China's arid border with the Soviet republics of Tadzhikistan and Kirghizia.

Officials of the Foreign Affairs Office in Urumqi, the

capital of Xinjiang, neither confirmed nor denied the disturbances, saying only that it was "not clear" when asked whether troops had been sent in to quell rioting.

An official of Xinjiang's government office in Beijing, asked if reports that Kashgar had been closed to foreigners were true, replied, "I don't know."

The China International Tourist Service claimed foreign tourists could still go to Kashgar, but said they would have to take an 1,100 km (700-mile) bus trip from Urumqi.

The Chinese government has barred all foreign journalists and diplomats from travelling

to Xinjiang since the outbreak of ethnic unrest in adjacent republics of the Soviet Union.

More than half Xinjiang's population of 14 million are from the Uygur, Hui and other Muslim groups with close ethnic ties to Soviet Muslims.

There were violent Muslim riots in Urumqi last May, and relations between local minorities and the Beijing government have long been tense.

The sparsely populated

Tibet, another province where

resentment against Chinese rule has erupted into violence in recent years.

Xinjiang officials in recent

months have repeatedly warned

of separatists trying to

cause trouble.

Xinjiang's delegates to the just-concluded annual session of China's legislature called for increased vigilance against a small number of separatists who present the greatest threat to Xinjiang's stability.

The region's

party chief, Song Hanming, said after a tour of Kashgar and other areas of southern Xinjiang in February that the place and work unit now has some 'hot spot' problems.

He called for strengthened

control over religious activities.

saying the government must

allow religion to be used to

'promote separatist tendencies.'

Manila hunts for coup leader Bibit

Military tightens security in stockades

MANILA, April 9. (Reuter): Philippine security forces spread out a dragnet across Manila today in a hunt for alleged coup leader Billy Bibit, and rebel soldiers called his prison escape a big boost to their efforts to oust President Corazon Aquino.

The military tightened security in stockades, ran a headcount of prisoners and curtailed visits to prevent any further escape of rebel soldiers who nearly toppled Aquino in a coup attempt last December.

"We have sent our agents to different places. There are several areas

where we are concentrating in and I hope we can get Bibit," said Brigadier-General Mariano Filart, chief of the paramilitary stabat's capital command.

Filart appealed to the public for information on Bibit's whereabouts.

"Let us help each other because for as long as the leadership of those who attempted the coup are out we will not have any peace," Filart said in a radio interview.

Security lax in jail

MANILA, April 9. (AP): The knock at the door was supposed to be the delivery man bringing more beer to a party at the Manila City Jail. Instead, 15 rebel soldiers burst in and freed Li Col Billy Bibit.

Yesterday's escape by Bibit, jailed on charges of trying to overthrow the government in the December coup attempt, was just the latest example of prisoners taking advantage of lax security to win freedom.

President Corazon Aquino ordered a nation-wide manhunt for Bibit. A presidential spokesman, Lourdes Sytangco, described Mrs. Aquino as "sugn" and promised: "We will be seeing more forceful action in this case."

The Manila City Jail superintendent was relieved and three jailers, including a deputy warden, were arrested for negligence.

Military chief of staff Gen. Cecilio De Villa admitted that he was displeased with security at jails and stockades nationwide.

De Villa said it was difficult to enforce strict security because Filipino culture frowns on rules against conjugal visits, fraternisation between guards and inmates and liberal furloughs to attend funerals, graduations and other family occasions.

Police said Bibit escaped after guards, inmates and women visitors gathered and drank beer to celebrate

Manila detains Cabardo

Official shot in Sind

KARACHI, Pakistan, April 9. (Agencies): An opposition politician began a hunger strike yesterday to protest against political violence which has claimed 20 lives in Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city, in three days.

Altaf Hussain, leader of the Mohajir National Movement (MQM), began the fast at his home in Karachi, capital of Sind province, after the expiry of a deadline he had set for the arrest of the killers of 12 MQM members on Friday.

"If the culprits are not arrested, then instead of bringing people on the streets I will sacrifice my own life for the Mohajirs," he said.

The MQM, which represents Muslim Mohajir immigrants from India and Pakistan, Minister Benazir Bhutto's ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) blamed each other for the violence.

More than 1,000 people have been killed in ethnic riots in Sind since 1986.

Meanwhile, a sniper killed a police officer on Feb 7, when at least 33 people were killed and more than 100 wounded in riots during an anti-government strike called by the MQM.

Mohammad Hashim Memon, commissioner for the Sukkur administrative division, was shot as he worked in his office, a government statement said.

Police arrested the gunman. The motive for the attack was not immediately known.

Shuttle Discovery ready to blast off

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, April (UPI): At long last, the shuttle Discovery stood ready for blastoff tomorrow to launch the 1.5 billion Hubble space telescope, the most expensive satellite ever built and one expected to revolutionize humanity's view of the cosmos.

Running seven years behind schedule and some \$1 billion over budget, the railroad tank car-sized space telescope's batteries were fully charged and Discovery's 60-foot-long (18-m-long) cargo bay doors were closed over the giant instrument about 6:30 am.

It was a moment scientists have been awaiting for years, a critical milestone for what many consider to be the most important scientific satellite ever built, a project first proposed in the 1940s and funded by Congress in 1977.

"I think the importance of this is very profound," NASA astrophysicist Charles Pellerin said. "I believe it's likely we will change the way we think about the universe and our role in it."

Countdown

Discovery's carefully scripted countdown began at 3 pm Saturday and NASA test director Michael Leinbach said yesterday work at launch pad 39B was on schedule for a liftoff at 8:47 am (1247 GMT) tomorrow.

With a decision by NASA managers Saturday to relax tough post-Challenger guidelines on the maximum allowable winds, air force meteorologists predicted a 90-per-cent chance of acceptable weather at launch time tomorrow with conditions deteriorating somewhat later in the week.

At the controls for launch will be Commander Loren Shriver, 45, and co-pilot Charles Bolden, 43. Seated behind the pilots on Discovery's upper deck will be astronomer Steven Hawley, 38, and Bruce McCandless, 52, while Kathryn Sullivan, 38, will be seated alone on the ship's lower deck.

Discovery is scheduled to be launched into a record 380-mile-high (610-km) orbit — twice as high as shuttles usually fly — to minimize the braking effects of friction with the tenuous reaches of the outer atmosphere that otherwise would cause the satellite to slowly fall back toward Earth.

Working high above the planet's turbulent atmosphere, the telescope and its near-perfect 94.5-inch-wide (240-cm-wide) mirror, capable of seeing the light of a single firefly 10,000 miles (16,000 km) away, will view the universe with 10 times the resolution of ground-based instruments.

Improvement

This 10-fold improvement in resolution, comparable to the difference between being able to read the letters in the second row of an eyechart vs. the fine print at the bottom, will allow astronomers to study light emitted from stars and galaxies that were created shortly after the universe's origin.

The most distant object ever clearly photographed from Earth is a mysterious high-energy "quasar" some 1.2 billion light years away, that is, the distance its light covered in 12 billion years traveling at 186,000 miles (299,399 km) per second.

The space telescope will be able to study light emitted up to 14 billion years ago, just a billion or so years after the big bang thought to have created the universe. A major goal of the space telescope project is to find out how galaxies evolved during this period.

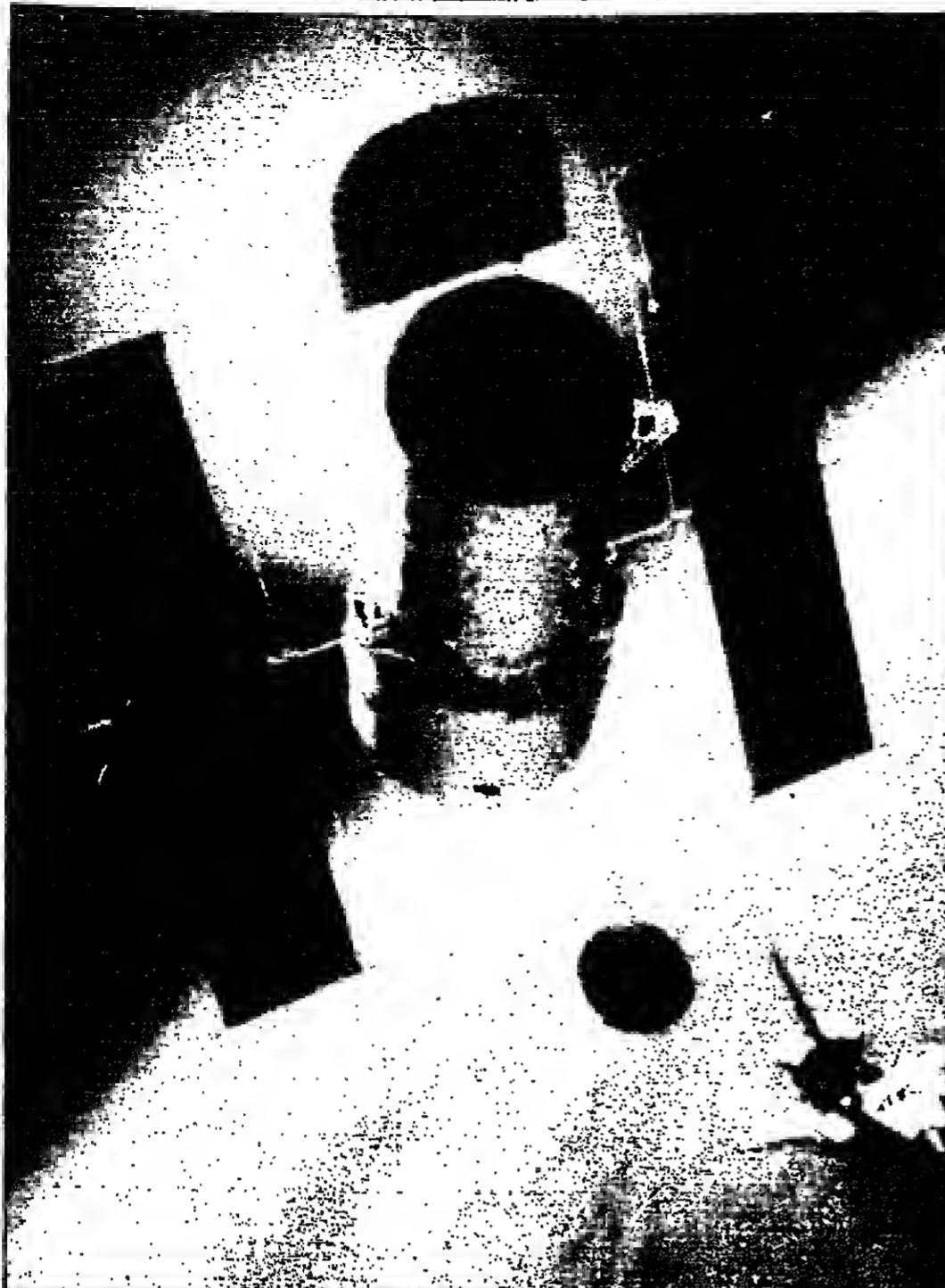
"We can see back to 10 billion light years as well as ground telescopes can see to 1 billion light years," NASA astronomer Edward Weiler said. "Because we can see with (better) resolution, at 10 billion light years we expect to see what galaxies looked like as they were being born, so to speak."

John Bahcall, president of the American Astronomical Society, said "if the telescope and the instruments function as specified ... then the Hubble space telescope should provide at least partial answers to the fundamental questions of astronomy."

But the price tag is high.

Price tag
The telescope cost \$1.55 billion — almost as much as a space shuttle — largely because of a series of delays that pushed the launch from 1983 to the present. Another \$600 million was spent for ground equipment, planning and testing and another \$200 million will be spent every year on data analysis and to fund research proposals.

If all goes well, Hawley, operating Discovery's 50-foot (15-m) robot arm, will release the 25,000-pound (12.7-ton) telescope into orbit around 2:10 pm Wednesday as the shuttle sails over the Pacific Ocean south of Mexico.



The space shuttle Discovery will be launched today to deploy the Hubble space telescope, shown in artist's drawing. The NASA and European Space Agency project will allow astronomers 15 years to view universe in finer detail than any ground observatory can. (Reuter wirephoto)

UK theatre awards

Davies wins

LONDON, April 9, (AP): A Rock-and-roll version of Shakespeare's "The Tempest" and a drama about four south London clergymen were named the British theatre season's best musical and play at the Laurence Olivier Awards last night.

Irish performer Fiona Shaw was named actress of the year in a play for her performances in three productions — "As You Like It," "Electra," and "The Good Person of Sichuan." None of the plays is still playing.

Michael Bryant was named outstanding supporting performer, male or female, for his work in "Racing Demon," "The Voysey Inheritance," and "Hamlet," all at the Royal National Theatre.

His acceptance speech paid tribute to his "Hamlet" co-star, the late Ian Charleson, whom he called a "gallant gentleman." Charleson died of AIDS in January.

The year's best director, Michael Bogdanov, for "The Wars of The Roses," won over stiff competition from Trevor Nunn ("Othello") and Nicholas Hytner ("Miss Saigon").

David Hare's "Racing Demon," at the Royal National Theatre, was named best play. His London win contrasted with the Broadway reception last fall of his play "The Secret Rapture," which proved a fast flop.

"Racing Demon" also took the best actor prize for Oliver Ford Davies as the doubting priest. Lionel Esq. Davies' win surprised insiders who expected the prize to go to Ian McKellen for both "Othello" and "Bent."

The annual awards, named for the late actor Lord Olivier, were announced in a nationally tele-

vised, black-tie ceremony at the Dominion Theatre. They are London's closest equivalent to the Tony Awards on Broadway, although they don't carry nearly the same commercial clout. Nor are they held at the same time each year.

The Duke of Westminster is Britain's second richest person with a fortune of 6.7 billion pounds, it was revealed.

She increased her wealth by 28 per cent last year, largely through a sharp rise in the value of royal art treasures and her share portfolio, the survey noted.

UK rich getting richer: survey

LONDON, April 9, (Kins): Britain's rich are getting richer, according to a new survey published here yesterday.

The annual survey, conducted for the Sunday Times magazine, found that the 200 wealthiest people in the UK have amassed 10 billion pounds more during the past year.

Remains

They are now worth over 48 billion pounds — equal to 9.4 per cent of the country's gross domestic product, the survey showed.

Not surprisingly, the Queen remains Britain's wealthiest person with a fortune of 6.7 billion pounds, it was revealed.

She increased her wealth by 28 per cent last year, largely through a sharp rise in the value of royal art treasures and her share portfolio, the survey noted.

Exclusive

And "old money" continues to dominate, with some 184 out of the 200 listed acquiring their riches through inheritance.

The Duke of Westminster is Britain's second richest person, largely as a result of owning 300 acres in Mayfair, London's most exclusive district, it was pointed out.

Among the new names entering the list of those owning over 50 million pounds are several Indian-born millionaires who live and work in London.

Noted

They head a growing gang of Asian millionaires making their presence felt in the British economy, the magazine noted.

British pop stars and impresarios also figure strongly in the survey, with former Beatle Paul McCartney now worth 350 million pounds and Rolling Stone Mick Jagger worth 75 million pounds.



Satanic cult gunman
TV picture shows an unidentified gunman who has been charged with murder in Southport, Australia. The man who was believed to be a member of a satanic cult, killed a 78-year-old woman during a shooting spree on Queensland's Gold Coast. (Reuter wirephoto)

Woman charged in axe-wielding attack goes on trial

MILWAUKEE, April 9, (AP): A woman who reportedly claims she is the mother of Jack the Ripper goes on trial today accused of plotting to kill a man with a hatchet in a ritual she believed would resurrect the British serial killer.

The 26-year-old man, who has not been identified, said in a complaint that he was lured to an apartment and attacked by an axe-wielding woman hiding in the shower. He said he needed 50 stitches to close a wound to his forehead.

He said he went to the bathroom, heard

Jury selection begins today in the trial of Deborah Kazuch, 26, who is accused of plotting the May 29 attack with two other Milwaukee women.

Catherine Lipsham, 23, and Ramona Barry, 27, pleaded guilty Friday to the same charge of attempted first-degree murder and agreed to testify against Ms. Kazuch.

The victim, who is also expected to testify, said he was lured to a Milwaukee apartment by Ms. Barry.

He said he went to the bathroom, heard

something move in the shower and pushed the curtain aside to reveal Ms. Kazuch holding a hatchet with a two-handed grip.

She raised the hatchet above her head, began chanting "redrum," or murder spelled backward, and struck him on the forehead just above the left eye before he managed to escape, the man told police.

Police said Ms. Kazuch planned to dismember the victim's body and drain his blood in a ritual she believed would bring Jack the Ripper back to life.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Aids victim dies

White succumbs to respiratory illness

INDIANAPOLIS, April 9, (UPI): Ryan White, the teenager forced to simultaneously fight AIDS, misconceptions about its victims and Hitler efforts to keep him out of public school, died yesterday of a respiratory illness related to the disease.

The shadow cast by the tough guy of the *Dirty Harry* movies darkens her legal as well as her artistic life, Miss Locke said.

Miss Locke, 42, is waging a court battle for a share of Eastwood's wealth and two of the homes he has shared during 11 years together. Eastwood filed his own lawsuit claiming that Miss Locke was married to another man and thus is not entitled to a settlement. (AP)

FORT WORTH, Texas: After trying chicken at a fast-food restaurant for several months, Soviet ballet dancer Mikhail Gaidamakin is ready for his debut with the Fort Worth Ballet.

Gaidamakin, 34, defected from the Kirov Ballet during a New York visit last July and moved to Dallas, where he lived with his friend Andrei Ustimenko, a defector from the Moscow Ballet.

Gaidamakin worked at Grandy's, a chicken joint, before signing with the Fort Worth Ballet in March. (AP)

TEMPE, Arizona: Former Beatle Paul McCartney, playing on the 22nd anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., criticized Arizona for not having a state holiday honoring the slain civil rights leader.

The Arizona legislature passed a bill in September for a King Day, but opponents gathered enough signatures to stall the holiday until after a referendum in November.

"I thought that was really

dumb," McCartney told a news conference. "That was a very good opportunity to make a nation proud of one man. He was a great guy. It looked a bit silly when one state held out against it."

Arizona is one of only three states still without an official King holiday. The others are New Hampshire and Montana. (AP)

ROCK HILL, South Carolina:

Mood music, subliminal messages and other secret devices may be deployed to get the best out of the sumo contestants in the *Come See Me* Mayor's frog jump.

Twelve jumbo grassfrogs have been imported from Brownsville in Maricopa County for the contest.

In the main contest, which is open to the public, the frogs must be of the garden variety.

Ampthibian actress Joyce Moss picked up the box of imported frogs at the post office.

"They're ugly. Oooh, they're nasty," she said, holding the box. (AP)

Ms. Moss followed instructions on the box: Do not refrigerate, keep it out from heat. (AP)

AUSTIN, Texas: North America's largest urban hot colony, which hangs under Congress Avenue Bridge in Austin, is to get official recognition this month as a tourist attraction.

The colony swells in midsummer to about 750,000 Mexican free-tailed bats who live in 16-inch-(40.6-centimetre)-deep grooves running the length of the bridge over Town Lake.

The city's park and recreation department and bat Conservation International plan to open a kiosk with educational display panels on the north shore of the lake on April 20. The nocturnal mammals have long drawn thousands of tourists each year.

DANBURY, Connecticut: Singer-songwriter Neil Sedaka has been admitted to Danbury Hospital for treatment of diverticulitis, a hospital spokesman said.

Spokesman John Morgan said Sedaka, 51, is considering surgery to alleviate the intestinal inflammation.

Sedaka, a singer-composer who first reached fame in the 1950s, has written and recorded dozens of popular songs including "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do," "Calendar Girl" and "Stupid Cupid." (AP)

ROME: Elderly designer Princess Irene Calitzie, who created the "Palazzo Pajama" style of evening wear in the 1960s, has been jailed for tax evasion, her lawyer said.

The 77-year-old Russian-born princess was surprised by police who arrived at her Rome apartment to bring her to jail, said lawyer Marcello Barbieri.

The police said she had been convicted of tax evasion in a November 1988 trial and sentenced to six months in prison. Barbieri said, however, the princess said she had never been notified that she was even charged, the lawyer said.

"We don't know exactly how it happened," the lawyer said in a telephone interview. But he said her office might have mislaid the notice.

Calitzie in newspaper interviews has said she designed outfit for celebrities as Jacqueline Onassis, Liz Taylor, Audrey Hepburn, Greta Garbo and the former Queen Anne-Marie of Greece. She won fame for the "Palazzo Pajama," elegant pants worn at formal evening functions. (AP)

Work in early stages

MARSEILLE, France, April 9, (UPI): A leading French medical researcher, cautioning that his work still is in early stages, said yesterday he has discovered an anti-body that ultimately could help prevent healthy AIDS carriers who have tested seropositive from developing the disease.

The antibody, baptized "Anti-Beta 2 Microglobulin," was discovered by a team at the state-run Institute for Science and Medical Research (Inserm) in the southern French city of Marseille, according to its leader, Prof. Jean-Claude Chermann.

Preliminary results of laboratory work, published in the *Journal of Virology*'s April edition, suggest the antibody could prevent the immune deficiency syndrome virus reproducing itself in lymphocytes, Chermann was quoted as saying in a statement printed in French newspapers yesterday.

"The fast of placing an antibody (Anti-B Microglobulin), pressing on the signal of the Beta-2, launches something in the cell that blocks the virus," Chermann said.

"We have made an Anti-Beta 2 Microglobulin antibody that launches an inter-cellular signal that blocks the virus," said Chermann, a

new mechanism, that is to say something that intervenes in the cell before it infects it and at the moment when it infects it."

Fontana Hotel fire toll rises to six

MIAMI BEACH, Florida, April 9, (AP): Searchers using dogs and heavy equipment found two more bodies and looked for others yesterday in the charred debris of the Fontana Hotel.

The death toll from the fast-moving fire that swept the 39-year-old hotel Friday rose to six with two discoveries, officials said.

Eight tenants were still unaccounted for.

More than a score of searchers began their Sunday search at the top and along the sides of blackened rubble left as the fire gutted the building.

"Our main concern now is to get the bodies out,

Plane crash filmed live by Italians

ANGUILLARA, Italy, April 9, (UPI): A pilot and passenger died yesterday and three persons on the ground suffered slight burns when a small Cessna airplane, apparently attempting to perform impromptu acrobatic stunts, crashed just near a group of students gathered for the filming of a television show.

A crew from Italy's state-run third channel videotaped the crash as it happened. Edited clips of the accident, which occurred near the shores of Lake Bracciano 30 km north of Rome, were shown on news programmes.

Police identified the dead as pilot Alessandro Maiello, 28, and Fulvio di Nacci, 27. The injured were identified as Pietro Mecocci, Guido Tommasucci, 23, and Gorazio Rossi, 35.

The accident occurred during the filming of three small wooden airplanes — similar to gliders — which were embarking on an aerial survey of Italian coastal pollution.

The Fontana was a seasonal or year-round house for about 100 people, including many elderly retirees. Many groped down dark, smoky hallways or jumped out of their windows to flee the fast-moving fire.

INTERNATIONAL

Poindexter may have to testify again

WASHINGTON, April 9. (AP): John Poindexter may have to testify again after his June sentencing on Iran-Contra convictions, sources say, at the request of prosecutors trying to write their final report on the Reagan era scandal.

The sources said their investigation is far from finished in the arms-for-hostages affair that was called the worst US scandal since Richard Nixon resigned over Watergate in 1974.

Both Poindexter and former National Security Council staff deputy Oliver North might be compelled under a grant of immunity from prosecution to testify before a special panel assembled to review evidence, the sources said.

While such appearances before a so-called grand jury might provide missing links to the coverup and help prosecutors close the books on the more than 3-1/2-year-old scandal, new indictments would be

unlikely, they added.

That was the consensus drawn from a series of interviews with sources in and out of government in the wake of Poindexter's conviction Saturday on conspiracy, obstruction and lying to Congress.

These sources, who discussed the cause of anonymity, said Poindexter's weekend convictions are significant because they provide a focus for the next, and possibly final, phase

of the probe into the Iran-Contra affair that tainted the final years of Ronald Reagan's presidency.

The conspiracy conviction was the first courtroom confirmation that Poindexter, North, late-CIA director William Casey, National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane and others worked illegally together.

The conspirators' goals, the investigators have said, were to conceal from Congress

evidence of the diversion of Iran arms sale money to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels, the US role in a Hawk missile shipment to Iran and North's military support for Contras during a time when direct or indirect US aid was banned.

Iran-Contra prosecutor Dan Webb referred questions to Walsh, Mary Belcher, a spokeswoman for the Iran-Contra prosecutor's office, said Walsh would not comment on matters which may or may not

pertain to grand juries.

Nevertheless, North, Poindexter, and possibly former CIA station chief Joseph Fernandez, may be compelled to give grand jury testimony about the scandal, the sources said.

Getting immunity for North would give Iran-Contra prosecutors their first opportunity to conduct a wide-ranging interrogation of the former Marine officer outside the constraints imposed by a courtroom trial.

Bogota party official killed

BOGOTA, April 9. (AP): Gunmen shot and killed Jose Humberto Hernandez Rodriguez, an alternate Congressman of the ruling Liberal Party, in an attack yesterday, police said.

Hernandez Rodriguez died on the scene of the shooting in Bogota, the authorities said. Police said they knew of no immediate motive for the killing and that the attackers escaped.

In other developments a gold-plated motorcycle has been seized by police as they continue rounding up the illicit wealth of a Medellin cartel leader killed last year.

Police shot and killed drug trafficker Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha in a Dec 15 gunfight on Colombia's northern coast.

The motorcycle, coated with 18 carat gold, was seized in one of 15 raids Saturday in Rodriguez Gacha's hometown of Pacho, 30 miles (80 kilometres) north of the capital, police said yesterday. They said Japanese-made bike was used by Rodriguez Gacha's son, Freddy, who was killed with his father.

Since the government intensified a campaign against traffickers last August, authorities have seized \$42 million worth of gold, silver and cash belonging to Rodriguez Gacha.

Authorities have also found diamond encrusted jewellery, gold-plated pistols, cars, planes and other goods worth hundreds of millions of dollars on the trafficker's ranches and estates.

Police estimate that the seized goods represent only a fraction of the wealth accumulated in less than ten years by Rodriguez Gacha as he smuggled tons of cocaine to the United States.

With a personal fortune exceeding \$5 billion, Rodriguez Gacha was considered the richest man in Colombia after Pablo Escobar, the alleged top drug lord. Police are still searching for Escobar.

Colombia's multi-billion-dollar illegal cocaine trade has had few positive benefits for the local economy, according to a report by a Central Bank economist.

Hernando Jose Gomez, an economist at the Bank of the Republic, said the country's powerful cocaine barons earned \$14.2 billion between 1981 and 1988, for a yearly average of \$1.8 billion.

But he said less than half of the money — \$6.8 billion — had been brought back to Colombia and little of that had been invested in productive activities.

The biggest part of the resources generated by illicit substances went to financing capital flight and contraband, the report said.

It added that drug traffickers' biggest financial influence has been felt in housing and cattle ranching.

The study fuels an intense debate in Colombia on the impact illegal drug dealing has had on the economy, one of the strongest in Latin America.

■ **Cuba:** A senior Cuban official said that operation of Cuba's first nuclear reactor, being built by Soviets at a site about 230 miles (370 km) south of Miami, has been delayed by two to three years.

"Our nuclear programme is one hundred per cent for peaceful energy uses. We do not have nuclear arms," Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ramon Sanchez Parodi said in an interview over the weekend.

"The operation of first nuclear reactor, originally scheduled to go critical for testing by the end of the 1980s, was postponed until the end of 1990 and has been postponed again."

Cuban officials and diplomats say that if everything goes well and the Soviet Union — beset by its own economic and nuclear problems — continues to cooperate, Cuba's first reactor may go critical for testing at the end of 1992 at the earliest.

Argentine minister in UK for talks

Hope to improve ties

LONDON, April 9. (AP): Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo of Argentina arrived in London yesterday, the most senior representative of his government to visit Britain since the two countries fought a war over the Falkland Islands in 1982.

Cavallo flew into Heathrow airport for talks with Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and a lunch with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and said he hoped the meetings would help improve relations.

"We have now normal diplomatic relations between Britain and Argentina so we will go over all of the bilateral questions," he told reporters.

"We hope we will reach an agreement on reciprocal elimination of visas between the two countries ... that is very important for the contacts between the two countries for facilitating trips, visits and so on," he said.

"We will also begin negotiating a bilateral agreement on guarantees and protect for investment for one country or the other country. Also we will try to discuss what could be the agenda and timetable for the working group on fisheries in the south Atlantic."

After preliminary talks in New York last year, Britain and Argentina agreed in Madrid in February to restore diplomatic relations severed when Argentina invaded the south Atlantic islands in June 1982.

Britain sent a naval task force and recaptured the islands after a 74-day war in which nearly 1,000 troops died.

The agreement does not touch on the two countries' conflicting claims to sovereignty over the archipelago which Argentina calls the Malvinas.

URGENTLY REQUIRED

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WAITERS

- High school diploma with fair grade in mathematics.
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- High school
- Excellent communication skills in Arabic and English.
- Recognised diploma in secretarial work and office management.
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We offer highly competitive remuneration package and benefits scheme along with career opportunities.

Please send your C.V., certificates, passport copy and other supporting documents to:

Human Resources Director
P.O. Box: 26671 - Safat - 13127
KUWAIT.

Fujimori rejects deal with Llosa

LIMA, April 9. (UPI): Independent presidential candidate Alberto Fujimori has rejected any deal with novelist-politician Mario Vargas Llosa that would lead to the cancellation of a second-round election between the two political newcomers.

Fujimori, an agricultural engineer of Japanese descent, and Vargas Llosa appeared to a finish in a virtual dead heat in national elections yesterday, according to projections from Peruvian news media based on selected ballot results.

Fujimori, whose campaign peaked in the final two weeks, won 30.2 per cent of the vote compared to 29.8 per cent garnered by Vargas Llosa, according to Radio Programas. Vargas Llosa, an internationally known novelist, was ahead 29 per cent to 27.7 per cent in a projection made by Panamericano television.

Vargas Llosa, whose hopes for a first-round victory were dashed, immediately called for talks to avoid a second vote tentatively set for June 3. The runoff election will pick a successor to unpopular President Alan Garcia, whose term has been beset by runaway inflation and daily attacks by communist guerrillas.

"I believe that we can arrive at a formula to avoid a second round," Vargas Llosa said, pointing to Peru's grave economic crisis and a leadership vacuum that could result from the uncertainty of another round of campaigning.

But Fujimori, who was virtually unknown two months ago, said he was not interested in reaching an agreement.

"It's important to go to a second round and clarify some political points," said Fujimori, who ran a vague campaign with few specifics on his plan for pulling Peru out of its crisis.

"We are not going to make any pacts," he said, also rejecting agreements with leftist parties that would lead to their support.

Luis Alva Castro, the candidate of Garcia's American Popular Revolutionary Alliance, was in third place with 17 percent to 21 per cent of the vote, according to the projections. Official results were not expected for several weeks.

Projections showed Henry Pease of the Communist United Left with about six per cent of the vote and Alfonso Barrantes Lirman of the Socialist Left with four per cent.

Four minor candidates split about two per cent of the vote and some 11 per cent of the ballots were left blank or annulled, Radio Programas said.

Projections also indicated neither Fujimori nor Vargas Llosa could count on having a majority of their party members in congress.

Electoral day was relatively quiet even though the communist Shining Path guerrillas had called for a boycott and threatened to disrupt the election.

There were no reports of major incidents in Lima. But the armed forces said 50 guerrillas armed with knives, rocks and sticks entered a village in the Ayacucho region and killed 17 residents, including women and children. No motive was given for the attack.

Vargas Llosa is the author of such novels as "The Green House," "The City and the Dogs," and "The War at the End of the World." Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, capitalized as an independent on Peruvians' disenchantment with politicians, fears over Vargas Llosa's plan of economic "shock" to contain inflation and voters' admiration of Japan, according to pollsters.

The studious-looking former university rector with no experience in politics has made a last-minute assault on opinion polls on the back of voter dissatisfaction with traditional politicians.

The son of Japanese immigrants is now just a few points behind the frontrunner, world renowned novelist Mario Vargas Llosa, who leads a centre-right coalition. Pollsters say Fujimori could pull off a stunning coup, sailing into the run-offs next month and even beating Vargas Llosa.



Fujimori casts his votes accompanied by his wife Susan on April 8. (Reuter wirephoto)



Fujimori (left) embraces Llosa during a press conference on April 8. (Reuter wirephoto)



Papandreou accepts a kiss from his wife, former air hostess, Dimitri Liana on April 8. (Reuter wirephoto)



Mitsotakis shown sceptical during a news conference yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Greek NDP one short of poll win

Third election in 10 months; 'suicidal situation'

ATHENS, April 9. (Reuter):

Greece's Conservative Party was one seat short of an absolute majority in Parliament after the third general election in 10 months yesterday, and a year-long political crisis looked likely to deepen.

The Conservative New Democracy Party was given 150 seats in the 300-seat Parliament by the Interior Ministry earlier this morning with more than 98 per cent of the vote counted.

The Socialist Pasok Party had 124 seats, a communist-led alliance 19, and smaller parties and independents seven seats.

Conservative Party leader Constantine Mitsotakis called the result "suicidal situation" for the nation.

But he said he was confident he would find enough support in parliament to form a government.

It would be the first government dominated by New Democracy since 1981, and would be committed to sweeping economic changes to deal with the country's severe economic crisis.

Mitsotakis stressed to reporters that the final result was not in, and he still hoped to win another seat for an absolute

Poll row Father arrested

IRAKLION, Crete, April 9. (Reuter): A Greek father on the island of Crete was temporarily arrested for not allowing his wife and son to vote in Greece's general elections on yesterday, police said.

They said Gerasimos Apostolakis hid the identity cards of his wife Elena and his son Maolis, making it impossible for them to cast their ballots.

But political commentators held out little hope.

Without an absolute majority, Mitsotakis would have to look to the seven independents for support. They include a Muslim, an ecologist, a centrist and four hard-left deputies.

President Christos Sartzetakis must decide after the final result is announced by the Interior Ministry, probably later on,

whether to give Mitsotakis a mandate to try to form a workable government.

"I have no doubt that he will ask me to form a government," he said. "But if he doesn't I'm not going to stage a coup."

If the inconclusive result is confirmed by the final count, it would be the third election in 10 months on which no party has won an absolute majority in Parliament.

If Mitsotakis fails to find the support for a New Democracy government, or at least persuade some independents to abstain to give him a working majority, talks will open on a coalition. Failing that, new elections will be called.

With 98.2 per cent of the vote counted, New Democracy had 47 per cent, the Socialist Pasok Party 38.6, the communist-led alliance 10.2. The smaller parties made up the balance.

Greece has been ruled by weak coalitions since June, when the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) was driven from office in a crushing election defeat after a series of scandals.

Former Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, 71, who ruled from 1981 until his June defeat, told reporters that

the country should now be run by a broad-based government. He did not elaborate.

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With

One dead, 25 hurt in British ferry blaze

MILFORD HAVEN, Wales, April 19. (AP) One person was killed and 25 injured today after a fire broke out on a ferry carrying 297 people from Wales to Ireland.

Milford Haven Coast Guard spokesman George Clarke said the dead person had not been identified, but a Royal Air Force spokesman said the victim was a crew member.

The injured, including a pregnant woman, were admitted to Withycombe hospital in Haverfordwest for treatment.

of smoke inhalation, cuts and bruises, said a hospital spokeswoman. One woman was transferred to the intensive care unit at West Wales General Hospital.

Nine of the injured had been airlifted from the ferry by two RAF helicopters and one Royal Navy helicopter, which also brought firefighters and two doctors to the vessel, Clarke said.

The fire broke out in the forward sleeping cabin beneath the car deck, the Coast Guard said, as the B and I Ferry

Norrona was eight miles (13 km) west of the Welsh coast.

Firefighters and crew members controlled the blaze within two hours of the captain's distress call, Clarke said, and the Norrona returned to port in Milford Haven under her own power.

Some of the 219 passengers and 28 crew members on board the ferry en route from Milford Haven, 180 miles (300 km) west of London, to Rosslare, Ireland, said they had to crawl through the thick smoke in cabins and

corridors.

The D and I, Ireland-based company said in a statement that it suspected that the fire "was started deliberately."

It did not elaborate, but the B and I's marine superintendent, Capt. Peter McKenna, told Irish Radio the company was

"fairly certain about this."

McKenna said the Irish ferry company believed mattresses or lighted paper started the fire. Police were interviewing all those on board.

Violence flares in UK prison crisis

Charred body found in Dartmoor

LONDON, April 19. (Reuters) An explosion of unrest in jails throughout Britain has thrown the spotlight on a growing crisis in the country's antiquated and overcrowded prison system.

Violence has erupted in at least 14 prisons up and down the country in the week since inmates at Strangeways jail in the northern city of Manchester staged Britain's worst prison riot this century.

The charred body of a prisoner was found in a cell at the notorious Dartmoor prison in southwest England yesterday after inmates gave up their 24-hour siege.

Disturbances flared at eight prisons yesterday alone. In the latest major incident, about 200 prisoners seized part of Horsfield jail in the western city of Bristol, the Home Office said.



Rescue workers remove a body bag aboard the Scandinavian Star. (Reuters wirephoto)

Some of the prisoners involved had been transferred from nearby Dartmoor earlier in the day. A group of inmates broke through to the roof and hurled stones at officers below.

As firemen doused them with high-pressure hoses, they hung out a banner saying: "Dartmoor boys on tour."

At Strangeways, a hard core of about 20 prisoners defied elsewhere, inmates staged sit-down protests at jails in London and Leeds and smashed furniture and burned bedding in Cardiff jail.

At Hull prison in northeast England, 110 prisoners awaiting trial refused to come in from exercise. Most of them tried to rush the compound gate but were held back and eventually surrendered.

At London's Pentonville prison, 300 prisoners were evacuated when an inmate pulled a gas pipe from the wall and it had to be replaced.

David Evans, head of the Prison Officer's Association, said British penal institutions suffered from "overcrowding, staff shortages and poor conditions in some institutions" and were being asked to detain more violent prisoners.

But David Mellor, Home Office Minister, dismissed suggestions of a fundamental problem with the prisons. He said the disturbances suggest "something is fundamentally wrong with a number of prisoners." Warders and police as the siege went into its ninth day.

Prison officers have said the prison system is collapsing and inmates say the violence has flared up because they are treated like animals.

The prison population of England and Wales, at just over 47,000, has fallen by about 2,500 over the past year. But prisoners' charities say conditions are still grim despite government moves to modernise the system.

The National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders said Britain had one of the highest prison populations in Western Europe, both in absolute numbers and in relation to its overall population.

Prisoners often spend up to 23 hours a day crammed two or three to a cell originally designed for one occupant.

They are particularly disgusted by the wide-spread practice of "slopping out." Many of the cells are not equipped with normal lavatory facilities and they must relieve themselves in buckets.

Many of Britain's prisons are grim, inhospitable buildings more than 100 years old. Outbreaks of rioting have occurred at many jails in recent years.

Strangeways is one of Europe's most overcrowded prisons. Built in 1868 in the centre of Manchester, it now houses 1,600 instead of the 970 it was designed for.

Dartmoor prison, where more than 100 inmates barricaded themselves into part of the building on Saturday night, was built 180 years ago for prisoners from the Napoleonic wars.

"It will be very difficult to identify the victims. It will take a long time," Onso said.

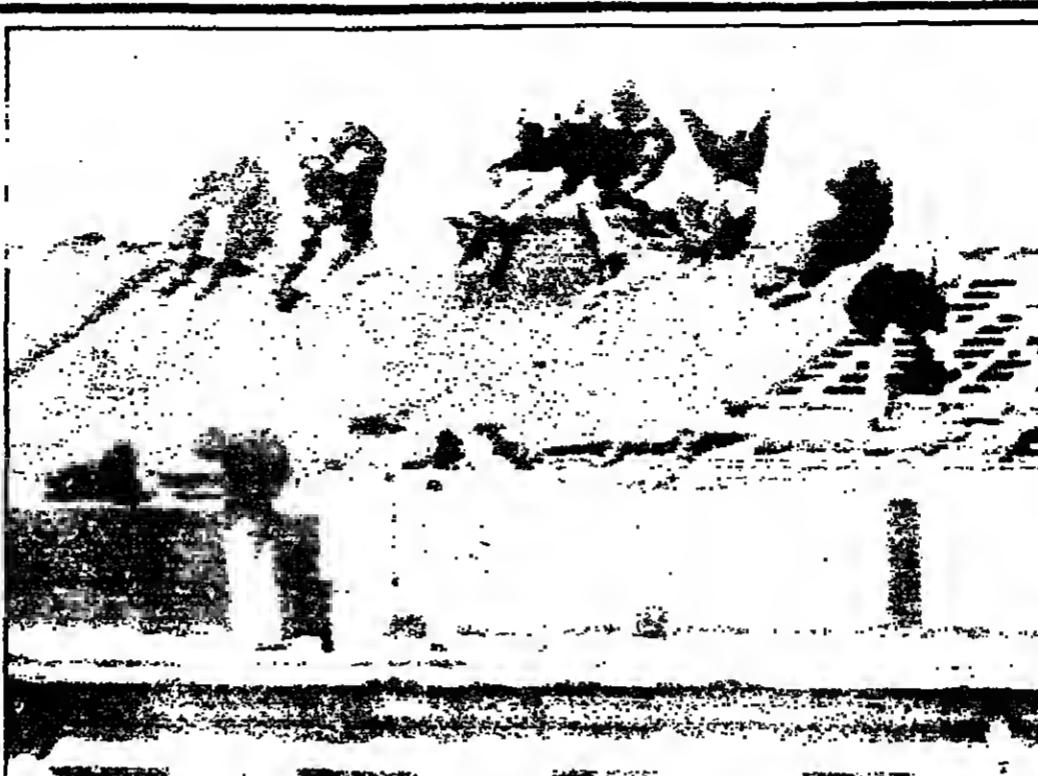
Onso confirmed reports that two fires broke out aboard the Scandinavian Star, but he refused to speculate on how that fit with claims that the fire was deliberately set.

Norwegian police were interviewing survivors and comparing passenger lists with those of ferries that had had suspicious fires to look for arson suspects.

Their suspicions of arson were based on accounts from survivors and similarities between the Scandinavian Star disaster and previous fires on North Sea ferries.

Ship captain Hugo Larsen told Norway's news agency NTB that he was sleeping in his cabin when his helmsman awakened him saying: "Please come to the bridge. I think we have an arsonist on board."

The blaze, which finally was extinguished late yesterday, sent plumes of smoke over Lysekil on Sweden's southwest coast 250 miles (400 kilometers) southwest



Dartmoor inmates shown on the roof April 8. (Reuters wirephoto)

Book on poverty

LONDON, April 19. (Kunap) Millions of people were barred from being full citizens in the UK because they are poor, according to a new book published here today to mark the 25th anniversary of the child poverty action group.

Inequalities "run like fault lines" through society to shape the nation's civil, political and socialists fears, the study by the group pointed out.

"The exclusion of millions of our fellow citizens from the enjoyment of the full rights of citizenship that a wealthy society like ours can provide is an issue for public, not private morality," the book added.

But the Soviets have also taken steps including modernisation of weaponry.

There was no immediate claim.

The explosion occurred just

Four British soldiers killed in N. Ireland

Land mine blast

DOWNPATRICK, Northern Ireland, April 19. (AP) Four soldiers died today when their Land Rover drove over a land mine in the Northern Ireland town of Downpatrick, police said.

Several other soldiers were reported to have been injured, said a spokesman for the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The soldiers are believed to have been members of the Ulster Defence Regiment, the mainly protestant, locally recruited regiment of the British Army.

"The target appears to have been an army Land Rover," the police spokesman said. "I can confirm that four people have died in the attack, four members of the security forces."

The deaths bring to 16 the number of people killed in political and sectarian violence in Northern Ireland so far this year.

The Irish Republican Army is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland and unite the predominantly Protestant province with the Roman Catholic Republic of Ireland.

Before 8 am (0700 GMT) near the Downpatrick race course in county down, in the southeast part of the province.

"What made us deserve a state which is so unsure of itself that its concern for security becomes paranoid?" Adolf Musch, a prominent Swiss novelist, asked at a protest rally in Bern last month.

More than 300,000 people so far have asked the federal prosecutor's office for copies of their file cards, if they exist.

Answering the letters will take at least until the end of this year.

Secret files trigger uproar

Swiss surveillance

BERN, April 19. (AP) The retired managing editor of a liberal Swiss newspaper was not pleased to receive word that his political reputation is unmarred.

Paul C. Schaffroth is among the half-million Swiss and foreign nationals who were kept under surveillance by Swiss police. He demanded his official file and got a clean bill of political health.

The existence of the files was a secret until last November, when the surveillance practice was disclosed by a Swiss parliamentary commission.

"These methods are unworthy of our democracy," Schaffroth, 69, said in an interview with the Associated Press. "I feel angry and concerned."

Justice Minister Arnold Koller, currently the Swiss president, was another prominent figure listed in the files.

Koller called the surveillance methods "unacceptable and amateurish" but argued that the practice originated in the cold war and was similar in those used in other countries.

Word of the files triggered an uproar in this country of 6.5 million, which takes pride in being an island of tranquility in a troubled world.

What Koller concedes is "deep erosion of confidence" now threatens to overshadow next year's events marking the 700th anniversary of Switzerland, one of the world's oldest democracies.

"Sniping state" has become a widely used reference in the Swiss press.

Artists and writers have warned they may refuse to help preparations for next year's jubilee. There have also been calls for a boycott of national census planned next December.

"What made us deserve a state which is so unsure of itself that its concern for security becomes paranoid?" Adolf Musch, a prominent Swiss novelist, asked at a protest rally in Bern last month.

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Answering the letters will take at least until the end of this year.

The government is under pres-

sure to release the full dossiers on which the file cards are based, and officials warn that will take many more months.

Schaffroth, formerly of Der Bund newspaper in Bern, is among less than 30,000 people who have received an answer to date.

More than two decades of state surveillance established, among other things, that he was once invited by the Chinese embassy to watch a movie on panda bears.

Schaffroth's file also notes that he once took part in a press trip to China, and that as a city councillor in charge of police he once received a letter on the visit of a Soviet delegation.

Published excerpts of other files suggest surveillance focused on contacts with left-wing circles and travels to communist countries.

But even a liking for beer or watching street theater was recorded in the files. And parking a car near an anti-nuclear rally could lead to an entry in the secret dossier of its owner.

Further disclosures of secret files both in the justice and defense ministries have added heat to the debate. They include "suspects" who were to be interned or restricted in movement in case of war or tensions.

Particularly startling was the discovery in the Justice Ministry of data on thousands of foreign children who vacationed in Switzerland in the early postwar years under a Red Cross charity programme.

Hubert Bucher, secretary-general of the Swiss Red Cross, said the records were turned over to the government because of lack of space. He denied official suggestions that the Red Cross had offered them for possible use by Swiss counter-intelligence.

"A storm of mistrust is sweeping the country," Defence Minister Kaspar Villiger told a congress of his conservative Radical Democratic Party last month.

The scandal has been the prime topic in letters to the nation's newspapers since January. Recently there has been a backlash with many defending surveillance — for example as a means of crime control.

increase of about 6 per cent from the previous fiscal year.

Japanese officials have said the increase is needed to improve housing and living conditions of the self defence forces and help meet US demands that Japan pay more or all of the cost of maintaining 50,000 US troops in the country.

Military spending remains a sensitive topic in Japan, whose post-World War II

constitution bars offensive military capability and renounces war as a means of settling international disputes.

Hiyoshi's comments came in response to questions from Shohei Ichikawa, a legislator from the opposition Komeito (clean government) Party, who asked whether the government had revised its view of the military threat posed by the Soviets in light of reduced superpower tensions.

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FINDING NEW WAYS TO HELP YOU.

LYSEKIL, Sweden, April 9. (AP) Authors ties will take days to begin an on-site investigation of possible arson into the fire that killed as many as 147 people aboard the Scandinavian Star ferry.

A commission of inquiry would be set up to work parallel to a police probe.

Meanwhile, the first bodies were taken from the blackened ferry on Sunday after the ship was towed into port, its midsection still burning.

Police hunted a suspected arsonist today.

Forty-three bodies were removed from the ship last year.

The death of the prisoner at Dartmoor brought the confirmed death toll in the week's prison violence to three.

It was the worst European ferry disaster since 1898 died on the Herald of Free Enterprise of Belgium.

Some of the bodies recovered from the 10,513-tonne ship were immediately placed on a refrigerated truck which left for Oslo, where identification will take place. The truck was accompanied by a funeral car and police escort.

"We are trying to find as dignified a means of transport as possible," said Roald Onso, police chief of the small fishing town of 8,000 where the burning ferry was brought under tow.

The fire began before dawn on Saturday while the ship was in the North Sea carrying about 500 tourists and crew members on an overnight trip from Norway to Denmark. The heat was so intense yesterday that it melted aluminum aboard the bridge of the Danish-owned ship.

Exhausted firemen struggled in the intense heat and fumes to reach cabins where victims burned to death or suffocated in the suspicious blaze.

Firefighters in masks and breathing equipment fought through one corridor "until their gear started to burn," said fire consultant Olli Wenstrom. One firefighter was slightly injured, he said.

The blaze, which finally was extinguished late yesterday, sent plumes of smoke over Lysekil on Sweden's southwest coast 250 miles (400 kilometers) southwest

INTERNATIONAL

Communists ahead in Slovenia polls

Runoff between Kucan and Pucnik possible

JUBLJANA, Yugoslavia, April 9. (AP): First-round election results in the liberal republic of Slovenia indicated today that the first freely elected president since 1945 would be picked in a runoff between a reformed communist and a conservative secessionist.

With 90 per cent of the ballots from Sunday's presidential elections counted, communist candidate Milan Kucan led with 44.5 per cent and Jozef Pucnik of the right-of-centre Demos opposition coalition was second with 26.1 per cent.

Independent candidate Ivan Kramberger, considered an outsider before the elections, was third

with 18.8 per cent, and Liberal Party candidate Marko Demšar trailed fourth with 10.5 per cent.

Since neither Kucan nor Pucnik received an absolute majority of more than 50 per cent of votes in Sunday's polling, they will meet in a runoff on April 22.

An estimated 1.1 million Slovenians, or 75 per cent of eligible voters, voted in the first multiparty elections in Yugoslavia since World War II. They chose among 17 parties for the new Slovenian parliament and among four candidates for president.

The first-round results "suggest that Slovenians

have opted for a peaceful transition from a single-party monopoly to a parliamentary democracy," Kucan, key engineer of the republic's road to democracy, told the Associated Press.

Pucnik, a former dissident who spent seven years in Slovenian prisons in the 1950s for his opposition to communism, said he was confident of winning the runoff "because those who voted for Kramberger and Demšar will now probably vote for me."

Political analysts predict a close race between Pucnik, who advocates quick secession, and Kucan, who has called for a more cautious approach.

Initial results suggest that the Slovenian com-

munist, who recently renamed themselves to Party of Democratic Renewal, will become the largest single party in the multi-party parliament, but will face a tough Demos coalition consisting of five conservative parties.

Partial results indicated the former communists would collect about 21 per cent of votes for representation in the future 240-seat Parliament, while five parties belonging to the Demos would have about 35 per cent.

Due to the slow and complicated counting process, official results of the parliamentary vote were expected only tomorrow.



Pucnik waves to supporters after he and his wife voted in the elections. (Reuter wirephoto)

Georgia mourns its martyrs

Lithuania faces new battle of nerves with military

MOSCOW, April 9. (Agencies): Twenty Georgians killed a year ago at an independence rally were honoured in the Soviet Union on Sunday, but separatist Lithuania faced a new battle of nerves with the military.

As Georgians lit candles and laid carnations at the scene of the tragedy in Tbilisi, several thousand sympathisers gathered outside the Tsar's winter palace in far-off Leningrad.

President Mikhail Gorbachev himself sent a message of condolence to mark the anniversary and Soviet television said such bloodshed must never recur.

The Leningrad meeting was clearly sympathetic to the independence aspirations of

smaller Soviet republics, pressed in defiance of Gorbachev's calls for patience. Radical member of parliament Anatoly Sobchak told the meeting that respect for the rights and freedoms of others was the only way forward.

"If you want your own rights and freedoms to be respected, you have to respect the rights and freedoms of others, whatever their nationality," he said as shown on Soviet television.

The rally was called principally to mark the April 9, 1989, killing of the 20 Georgian demonstrators, attacked by Soviet soldiers with sharpened shovels and poison gas in Tbilisi.

But it also supported Lithuania's March 11 unilateral declaration of independence.

"Bolsheviks—hands off Lithuania," read a banner, hoisted at the scene of one of the great events of communist folklore, the seizure of Tsar Nicholas II's headquarters during the 1917 communist revolution.

Lithuania's secessionist government said it had outpaced a detachment of soldiers who tried to occupy the Baltic republic's main newspaper offices in Vilnius.

Six truckloads of troops in militia uniforms drove up at two o'clock yesterday morning, but a crowd of several thousand Lithuanians gathered to block their way.

The soldiers eventually departed after the intervention of Deputy Lithuanian Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas, head of the republic's separatist Communist Party, Lithuanian parliament's information bureau said.

Soviet troops have taken over several key buildings in Vilnius over the past two weeks, sometimes denying access to local officials.

A small group has been in the newspaper offices, where most of Lithuania's daily and weekly papers are published, since March 31 but has not interfered with production.

Meanwhile, a rally to support continued union with Moscow drew several thousand people in Lithuania's main port Klaipeda.

Meanwhile in Rome, the Pope's envoy to the Soviet Union said that the Vatican might mediate in the independence dispute if it was asked to do so. Pope John Paul II already has called for talks to resolve the dispute in Lithuania, which is overwhelmingly Catholic.

The crowd also applauded when a Forum official read the unofficial tally for the Christian Smallholders and the Christian Democrats, which came in third and fifth. Both are considered likely coalition partners, largely sharing its Christian values of family sanctity and emphasis on Hungarian tradition.

The party's chief rival, the liberal League of Free Democrats, was a distant second with 92 seats, according to results issued by the national vote counting center.

The Socialist Party created by communist reformers who initiated democratic changes in Hungary that led to free elections, was fourth with 8.55 per cent of the vote and 33 seats.

After the first round March 25, the Democratic Forum had only a slight edge over the Free Democrats, but finished yesterday with 42.75 per cent of the vote compared to 23.83 for the Free Democrats. Formal final results were not expected before tomorrow.

The Smallholders who were third with 43 seats had 11.14 per cent of the vote, and the Christian Democrats were tied for fifth at 21 mandates and 5.44 per cent.

The League of Young Democrats, which is ideologically closest to the Free Democrats, was tied with the Christian Democrats.

Another 11 seats were divided among six independents, four candidates who were supported by more than one party and one candidate of the splinter Agrarian Federation.

The conservative victory was the second in free elections in the Soviet bloc. In East Germany, where Eastern Europe's first free elections were held March 18, conservatives also gained a clear victory. The communists were relegated to a relatively unimportant opposition role.

Antall indicated that he intended to begin preliminary negotiations immediately on forming a government.



Rally in support of NSF

A Romanian boy makes a victory sign during a rally in support of Romania's ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) in Bucharest April 8. About 8,000 supporters joined

the rally which launched the NSF campaign. (Reuter wirephoto)

E. German talks resume

Leaders still squabbling

EAST BERLIN, April 9. (AP): Weary East Germany negotiators resumed talks today on building a coalition government among political parties that have differing views on reunification with West Germany.

More than three weeks after East Germany's first free elections on March 18, party leaders were still squabbling over the new cabinet. The political

stalemate has led to increasing tensions in a country already struggling against economic collapse.

Before today's session, German Social Union chief Peter-Michael Diestel told the East German news agency ADN that he believed agreement could be reached in the course of the day.

However, the leftist Social Democrats, who are at odds with Diestel's ultra-Conservative Party, were

still less optimistic.

Richard Schroeder, a leading Social Democrat lawmaker, told reporters after a fruitless five hours of talks yesterday that the negotiations had entered a "difficult phase," but that he hoped to see progress today.

The East German government is being formed by Christian Democrat Lothar de Maiziere, who leads a three-party Conservative Alliance that holds the most seats in the 400-member parliament.

The Alliance lacks the two-thirds majority that is needed to enact constitutional changes to allow reunification with West Germany.

The alliance will be formed by the Social Democrats and the Socialists, who are supporting De Maiziere control, but if negotiations with that party fail, they can try to build coalitions with other political parties.

Schroeder gave no indication as to why talks broke down yesterday. But the parties were likely to be wrangling over who would get which ministries. It was the fourth straight unsuccessful round of negotiations.

The Christian Democrats and the left-leaning Social Democrats differ on the pace of reunification, which was the main issue in the East Germany's first free elections on March 18. The Social Democrats favour a

more gradual form of reunification.

The parties also differ on the role and makeup of an East German government, which faces dire economic problems.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher wants the first "two-plus-four" ministerial meeting on German

unity to take place this month, according to Bonn government sources.

They said he would try to persuade the foreign ministers of East Germany and the World War Two allies—the United States, Soviet Union, Britain and France—to join him in a meeting in Bonn on April 26-27.

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Iraqi President Saddam Hussein (right) greets Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak at Baghdad airport. (Reuter wirephoto)

Hostage freedom according to plan

BEIRUT, April 9, (AP): The Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal said yesterday that plans to free at least three French and Belgian hostages were proceeding, but warned that statements by the Belgian justice minister countered an agreement reached in negotiations.

The statement delivered to a Western press agency quoted Walid Khaled, Beirut spokesman for Fatah-Revolutionary Council, assaying that the release of Mrs Jacqueline Valente, her boyfriend Fernand Houtekens and their daughter Sophie born in captivity was "proceeding according to plan."

"We shall announce the date and place of their release in due time," it said.

The group first announced Friday that three of the eight hostages it holds would be released in response to a plea by Libyan leader Col. Muammar Khaddafi.

But its latest statement criticised Belgian Justice Minister Melchior Wathelet for "reneging in public statements on commitments made during unannounced negotiations."

Khaled did not mention the minister by name, but added: "It is necessary that he correct these statements, otherwise I shall find myself obliged to publish the minutes of the negotiations with the officials of legal representatives of the Belgian government, which included the justice minister himself."

The statement did not give any other details.

Wathelet said after a cabinet meeting in Brussels Friday that he had made no promises to obtain the release of the hostages.

On Thursday the government said in a statement that it was pleased with Khaddafi's call for the release of all hostages.

"But the attack on the minister suggested the other Belgian hostages seized by Abu Nidal's group off a boat with Ms Valente and her Belgian boyfriend would not be freed."

The Friday statement had attacked the Belgian government for not making a serious effort to free the hostages, saying only France and Khaddafi had taken the initiative on the issue.

But it warned the Belgian government to fulfill unspecified pledges to curb Zionist activities against the revolution of our people."

Abu Nidal announced on Nov. 8, 1987 that he had seized a group of hostages from the French yacht Silco off the Gaza Strip and accused them of collaborating with Israel's Mossad intelligence agency. Friends said the group was on holiday cruise.

New building plan for Cairo airport

CAIRO, April 9, (Kuna): Egypt is preparing to build the second, central, building of its international airport-terminal 2 to accommodate five million more passengers yearly.

Head of the airport authority Maj Gen Pilot Abdul Aziz Bader told Kuna, in an interview that increased number of tourists visiting the country in the past few years had necessitated launching the study on starting to build the new facility.

He noted that no date has been set for beginning the construction awaiting end of studies in this regard.

The terminal 2 was recently build only 2 kilometers away from the old one and was designed as three similar buildings in co-operation with the Paris airports authority, he underlined.

Bader said that the first building was open to air traffic two years ago at the cost of 343 million French francs and 40 million Egyptian pounds.

The airport head official said that he insisted that all construction materials for the second building should be bought from Egypt unlike the first one which had cost a lot.

Pharaonic and Islamic designs will feature the second building, he noted and pointed out that 23 Arab and foreign airlines were using the first building of terminal 2.

Bader said that dividing airline companies on both terminals depend on intensity of passengers carried by each airline and elaborated that airlines with big numbers of passengers such as Kuwait Airways, Saudi, French and British airlines use the terminal 2 while the rest land at terminal 1.

Both airport terminals accommodated 7.2 million passengers in 1989 with an increase of 500,000 passengers over 1988, he pointed out.

On other improvements to be installed in the Cairo airport, he said that advanced air traffic equipment will be installed to help planes land in bad weather conditions.

No indication that Iraq wants new conflict

BAGHDAD, April 9, (AP): President Saddam Hussein's warning that he would use poison gas to counter any attack by Israel has thrust his battle-torn nation into a war of words about nuclear and chemical weapons in the Middle East.

But most diplomats interviewed in Baghdad saw no indication that Iraq, fresh from the scarring experience of the 1980-88 war with Iran, wants to start a new conflict.

One Western diplomat said the Iraqi leader "isn't suicidal. I don't believe for a minute he thinks he could overwhelm

Israel."

The 1980-88 war with Iran, with its human and economic cost, pounded home a sense of political and military reality among Baghdad's leadership, diplomats said.

"Because of the war and the sacrifices it made, Iraq is more mature," Deputy Foreign Minister Nizar Hamdoon told a conference on Iraq in London last month.

Western analysts believe that the need for allies during the war forced Baghdad to moderate its policies. They cited as an example the rapprochement with Egypt.

ostracised in the Arab world in 1979 for signing a peace treaty with Israel.

Iraq, still technically at war with Iraq and other Arab states, sees its long-held technological superiority eroding.

Diplomats in Baghdad believe that real concern of a pre-emptive Israeli strike, not mere sabre-rattling, lies behind Saddam's warning last Monday.

When the Gulf war fighting halted in 1988, Iraq had a 1 million-man, battle-seasoned Army and missiles capable of hitting either Tehran or Tel Aviv.

In February, Iraq announced it had tested missiles with a 2,000 kms (1,250

mile) range -- enough to strike into Europe or the Soviet Union.

An Israeli air raid in 1981 that knocked out a nuclear reactor near Baghdad still haunts Saddam's government.

Iraqis grew alarmed in late December when Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, reacting to the Iraqi missile tests, said his country deserved the right to respond as it thought fit. Iraq saw that as a threat.

Fears rose as other Israeli officials and newspapers spoke of the need to neutralise Iraq's growing missile power.

Egypt is defusing tension: Vogel

CAIRO, April 9, (Agencies): Hans-Jochen Vogel, chairman of West Germany's Social Democratic Party, said yesterday he believed Egypt was doing its utmost to defuse tension created by the Iraqi president's threat to use chemical weapons against Israel if attacked.

Vogel spoke at a news conference at the end of his two-day visit during which he met with President Hosni Mubarak, Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid and their officials.

The German opposition leader flew in from Israel where he said he got the impression that if Shimon Peres would succeed in forming a government, an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue will start in a very limited time.

Peres is putting together a cabinet that is expected to go to parliament next Wednesday for approval.

Asked to comment on Middle East peace efforts in the wake of a statement by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein last week in which he threatened to destroy half of Israel if the Jewish state attacked his country, Vogel replied: "Of course the Israelis I met expressed concern about this, but I think Egypt and the president of Egypt did in a very responsible way what was possible to bring this irritation to an end."

"What was possible under the given circumstances was done," to prevent Hussein's statement from damaging the peace process.

He said he understood from talks in Egypt that "there are some explanations why the president of Iraq was upset by this or that," in connection to his threat.

In making the threat, Hussein charged that Israel sought to attack his country. His statement came after the United States and Britain accused Iraq of trying to violate export controls by smuggling capacitors that could be used in atomic bomb triggers.

"I made it completely clear that we dislike threats," Vogel said.

"I said that with regard to the use of chemical weapons, I say the same if another party would threaten with nuclear weapons," he said in an apparent reference to Israel which is reported to possess nuclear weapons.

Vogel expressed his absolute opposition to settlement of Soviet Jews in Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

Vogel emphasised that the Soviet Jews have the right to emigrate to Israel, but stressed his Socialist Democratic Party opposes their settlement in the occupied Arab lands and has informed Israeli leaders of this stance.

He said his talks with President Mubarak covered the stalled Middle East peace process, German unification and issues pertaining to Egyptian economy.

Vogel said he discussed with President Mubarak and with Israeli leaders during his visit to occupied Palestine last week current Israeli brutalities against the intifada. He warned that such oppressive acts contradict with international laws and norms and would certainly lead to isolation of Israel in view of growing death toll among Palestinians.

He called for speeding up efforts to begin an Israeli-Palestinian direct talks in Cairo, especially after President Mubarak declared Egypt's readiness to prepare for such a dialogue and secure its success.

Break bones orders Three Israeli soldiers testify

TEL AVIV, April 9, (AP): Three Israeli soldiers testified yesterday that they were told that orders to break the bones of Palestinian prisoners came from a high echelon. One said he believed the orders originated with then-Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The soldiers - reserve Sgts. Guy Neeman, Amiram Aviresh and Ronen Ferber - were called as defence witnesses in the court martial of Col. Yehuda Meir, the former commander of the Israeli troops in the Nablus area of the West Bank.

Meir, 38, who left the army in 1989, is charged with ordering soldiers to break the limbs of detainees taken into custody in the West Bank villages of Beita and Hawara in January 1988.

The trial began last month after state attorney Yosef Harish overturned an army recommendation to allow Meir to resign from the Army and avoid court martial.

Col. Menashe Finkelstein, chief prosecutor of the Army, suggested in cross-examination of the defence witnesses that the orders had in fact originated from the officers in the field.

But at the start of the trial, Meir was quoted by the Hadash newspaper as suggesting the orders to break bones originated from a higher echelon.

Recalled Aviresh: "(Eldad) said it was immoral, but the order came from high up, I think he said from the defence minister."

Rabin subsequently said the policy was intended to quell riots without gunfire and denied that he authorised the breaking of prisoners' bones.

Aviresh was found expired but alive, the television said. Inspectors from the Society for the Protection of Nature rounded these up and began trying to save them.

At the third session of his trial, Meir sat impassively, often simulating to himself or turning to his wife, as the three soldiers detailed the brutal actions in Beita on the night of Jan 19 and Hawara two days later.

He said the company commander, identified only as Eldad, talked to the soldiers after the incident and told them "it was not easy for him to give us that had been happening."

"They were lying on the ground, screaming and crying and whimpering. Afterwards, we were in shock. I couldn't believe that I behaved this way. It was like a horror," he recounted.

He said the company commander, identified only as Eldad, talked to the soldiers after the incident and told them "it was not easy for him to give us that had been happening."

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No amendments to labour law: Thamer

Company owners criticise restrictions

THE Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has no intention to amend the new labour law of the private sector that has been in effect for the past year.

Speaking on the issue, Mohammed Shahna Al Thamer, assistant under-secretary at the ministry commented that the ministerial decision organising work permits had been supported by a section of people and rejected by others. Specifically, he said there is strong opposition to the decision not to allow workers to transfer from one company to another in the private sector until

the worker had completed three years of service with the original sponsor.

However, the official said that the ministry has decided to abide by the decision, as it has many positive aspects compared to a few negative consequences. Thamer said: "We seek to achieve stability in the labour market and to strengthen the contractual agreements between the worker and his employer."

An exception to the rule, the official said is accorded to workers engaged in contracting companies who are granted permission in certain circumstances to

transfer to a new sponsor prior to completing the mandatory three years period of service. As a further form of assistance, the ministry also permits expatriates who hold family residences to transfer them to work permits. Workers are also permitted to transfer their work permits to other employers if their original companies close business or stop excess labour force.

However, Thamer disclosed that the number of work permits issued this year, are more than those issued during the same period last year and is vivid proof that the authorities do not oppose employers in developing their projects. The ministry agrees to all legitimate employers to bring in additional workers where the need is genuine, the official added.

Meanwhile, a number of

owners and directors of companies and establishments in the private sector were critical of the new labour law and described it as being restrictive and said that it infringes on the rights of workers who want to relocate to other services in the private sector. These owners commented that the employer has no legal authority to compel the worker to work for a continued period of three years. They said that both the employer and the employee should be allocated a trial working period of three months to ascertain that they are capable of continuing fruitfully the working relation.

Oil reserves to last over 100 years: report

ABU DHABI, April 9, (Open): The oil reserves of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates will last more than 100 years, according to the Duhai Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

A new study made by the chamber said that the Saudi reserves would last 136 years, while those of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates would do so for 206 and 173 years respectively.

The reserves, together with those of other Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states — Qatar, Bahrain and Oman — stood at 455.4 billion barrels in 1988, about 45.9 per cent of the world total.

The UAE, the study said, was the second largest GCC oil producer in 1988 with an average daily output of 1.5 million b/d. In terms of gas production, it came fourth in the region with 77.5 billion cu. m. Total GCC gas output was 774.5 billion cu. ft.

The report put the UAE second to Saudi Arabia in oil export earnings, eight billion dollars against the kingdom's 19.6 billion.

GCC domestic product totalled 139.2 billion dollars, while its foreign assets stood at 117.5 billion, according to the study.



Fruit and vegetable merchants at the market

Merchants at Shuwaikh market bemoan problems

Report price increases: Meshaan

MERCHANTS at the Vegetable and Fruit Market in Shuwaikh said that despite assurances from officials to resolve problems at the market, no firm action has been taken.

A local daily interviewed officials and merchants and said that officials categorically deny that there is any problem with the distribution of stalls and commented that merchants who reached strongly to the problem have refused stalls and have given them up.

The General Controller of Shuwaikh and Jahra Central Markets, Mohammed Al Meshaan stated that treatment is justly applied to all without exceptions. He said that some senior owners exaggerate the problem. He added that prior to forming the Municipality Affairs Committee in 1987, the system was not properly organised and lacked specific regulations and control. This resulted in some owners possessing several stalls.

Streamlining

A new decision issued by the committee streamlined the functions and regulations and gave all equal opportunities in owning stalls. The official said that priority in allocating stalls is given to the most senior merchants due to their long experience in the field. In this respect, 80 square meters of stalls were distributed to senior merchants and 40 square meters to new merchants.

A number of merchants stated that Sheds 1 and 3 at the vegetables and fruits market are inactive as compared to Shed 2. Officials commented that most merchants who have received stalls at Sheds 1 and 3 refused to work, or refused to receive their stalls.

Prices

Meshaan said that the Municipal Affairs Committee has reorganised the market to assist consumers to shop at one place without the need to

travel to other sheds. He said that he agreed that this method did create some disadvantages, but the issue will be redressed during the coming days.

The official attributed the rise in prices at the market to the merchants greed for seeking higher profits and added that the consumer protection offices are open round the clock and called on the public not to hesitate to voice their complaints with respect to higher prices.

He pointed out that the department had issued 199 citations to merchants last Feb and 97 during March 1990. Meshaan said that a plan is under way to standardise specifications to unit containers on weight and size basis, and the project is to be implemented in all GCC states.

Meetings

Nouri Abdul Al Nouri, one of the senior merchants said that he has been working in this field since 1958 and indicated that since he located to the Shuwaikh market he had never occupied the same stall. He said that senior merchants are now intending to hold meetings as they have come to the conclusion that the Municipal Affairs Committee is not extending merchants any facilities.

Abdul Mehsen Ali Al Wazan, who inherited the business from his father said that many new merchants cheat the customers both in weight and prices and consequently, customers have come to distrust owners. This has consequently reflected negatively on the level of sales. He cited an example of low sales by pointing out that in the past the vegetables and fruits market received over 100 freezer trucks daily, but this has reduced drastically. Most merchants have given up this type of profession, particularly national manpower which is replaced by non-Kuwaiti merchants.

Haphazard storage causing fires: Shuwaikh fire chief

Violators to be fined

THE commander of the fire brigade in charge of the Shuwaikh and Farwaniya industrial area Lt Col. Hameed Bahmen has said that the problems facing the area under his scope of operation are many, criticising the failure by some owners of companies and stores to comply with the conditions of storage.

He said that the Shuwaikh industrial area is considered a high-risk area as it is afflicted with the frequency of fire outbreaks. He urged citizens to clear the roads and avoid crowding around fire-sites to facilitate the passage of fire-engines in time to keep things under control.

He said that most fires at home are caused by inattention to children, who are left to mess around with matches unwatched by parents or the maids who are frequently put in charge of them while the parents are out.

He also said that the reasons for the high frequency of fires in summer include high temperatures, failure to comply with storage conditions, the emptiness and boredom experienced by children during the summer vacation, while electrical

appliances and matches are at hand.

Bahmen pointed out that cars will occasionally catch fire during the summer due to the extra temperature load on the engine caused by the continuous operation of in-built air-conditioning systems, or the electrical overloads caused by the too many connections to the car's power system, as practised by youths who soup up their audio systems.

He blamed the erroneous stacking patterns when material is stored as a causative factor in fires and said this also hampers free movement of firemen and complicates the fire fight. It is also a direct cause for the spread of fire to neighbouring areas, Bahmen said.

The area has a special committee of specialists who investigate the details of seemingly ambiguous fires to establish whether the fire was intentionally lit or started for natural reasons, Bahmen said.

He pointed out that some people will intentionally set fire to their stores or shops or even cars to avoid being caught for crimes

they have perpetrated such as embezzlement, or theft, but the committee will be able to foil their intentions and bring the guilty to justice.

He said that the fire brigade has modern fire-fighting engines and rescue equipment fitted with extendable ladders that could reach high-rise buildings consisting of 20 stories.

He added that the firemen are well-trained and are continually sent to special training courses abroad to polish their skills and keep in touch with the latest technologies in this field.

He stressed the need for all owners of companies or stores to organise the process of storing, keep power installations away from inflammable material, insulate the contents of the store, and install automated water sprinkling networks.

He added that special inspectors will regularly visit stores and companies to ensure that method of storage and assortment of goods compiled with the Kuwait Fire Department code, adding that violations will be punished by fines ranging from KD150 to 1,500.

Mobile phones dearer in Kuwait

THOUGH mobile telephones have recently been introduced in the country, walking in Kuwait gives one the impression that such services have been a part and parcel of the daily scene in the country for decades.

Consequently, the increasing demand for these sets has seen their prices rise as also subscription and fees. To determine the ramifications, a local daily conducted a poll.

Adnan Ashkanani stated that he had used mobile telephone services during the past few years and commented that the paper device is the best due to its light weight, in addition to many in-built characteristics. With respect to mobile fixed telephones, he said that this device can be taken to diwaniyas and outside gatherings. However, he said that the reception leaves a lot to be desired.

Unfair

On the pricing structure, he said that one device sells for as much as KD1,750. He said that with the increase in subscription fees, more users are selling their sets and called on officials at the Mobile Telephone Company to look into the feasibility of lowering the prices of these devices. He said that giving a subscriber only 20 minutes calling time is unfair.

He said that in the nearby Gulf states, prices were far cheaper and restrictions on time were more pragmatic. He cited the case of Bahrain where a mobile telephone costs 700 Bahraini dinars.

Ahmad Al Ibrahim, another owner said that he had purchased a mobile telephone set five years ago, but with the increase in prices of subscription fees and problems related to calling time, he was considering selling his set.

He added that the price of the ministry telephone services have increased as they do not have restrictions on calling time. He called for opening another mobile telephone company in the country to improve customer services.

Students union meets rector

WITHIN its efforts to revise the credit hours system regulations adopted in 1986, Kuwait National Students Union paid a visit recently to Kuwait University Rector Dr. Shuaib Abdulla to up the dialogue over such an issue. The union's delegation was comprising the chairman of the union Naser Al Elmazi and the chairman of Students Affairs Committee at the Union Naser Barch.

In an interview with a local daily, Al Elmazi was quoted as saying that the discussions with the university rector concentrated on the university's administration move for the solving of this issue in view of the dangerous outcome from the application of the credit hours system regulations since 1986.

He added that university's rector had pledged on March 11th, 1990 to find the necessary solution to this problem during the months of April and May and the Guidance Committee will hold a meeting to debate the relevant proposals submitted in this connection.

He added that the firemen are well-trained and are continually sent to special training courses abroad to polish their skills and keep in touch with the latest technologies in this field.

He added that during the meeting the union had repeated its demands for the revising of firm articles in the regulations.

He disclosed that the relevant statistics by the Computer Centre of the Kuwait University clarified that the higher education system in the future university was threatened in view of the increasing number of the students who had been dismissed from the university as a result of the application of the regulations in addition to a great number of students who had been issued warnings.



Jassem Al Nabhan ... reaching out

Personal touch to children's shows

Jassem keeps the essence

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

JASSEM AL NABHAN, the well-known Kuwaiti actor is one of the few who take time to do children shows and is widely admired. Children recognise his "friendly Jassem" in the non-stop serial "Open Sesame" which is based on lines from the famous "Sesame Street". In it, he advises and encourages children to learn in a gradual manner and provides guidelines to pronunciation.

He admitted that his latest serial last Ramadan "The Greedy" was not successful and speaking candidly said: "This serial was a disaster and I hesitated to take the role of the greedy man but TV authorities convinced the actor to add a touch of personal flavour, and it would be a success. However, sadly it was not."

In his radio programme "Children's Corner" children call him "Baba Jassem" where he invites them to join him at the studio and tells them fairy tales. Jassem's style is to reach out to children in a simple manner so that children of all ages can enter the wonderful life of imaginary characters.

His spontaneous response to children while acting on stage grows higher and higher as the character engulfs his personality. His last role on stage for children was this year in "Fish and Fisherman." I might mention that I have seen my niece drifting into a world of her own while watching him in this programme with intense interest.

Favourites

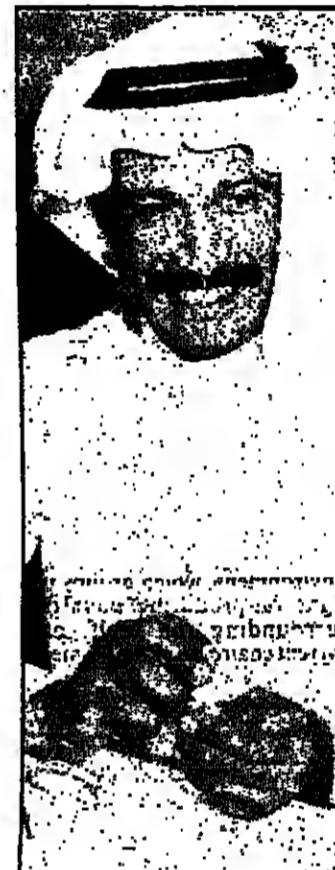
Jassem's favourite type of acting on stage is when he feels the stage is where his roots are and takes time from his schedule to go back again and again to perform. He began his acting career on stage as a hobby at the tender age of 14 at school. In 1964 he joined the Popular Theatre working back stage and gradually got involved until he became a stage actor and director. Since then and up to 1968, he attended lessons imparted by Zaki Tumimmat, the well-known Egyptian stage actor and director. He attributes his success to Tumimmat and was honoured with a certificate from Tumimmat for his role in "Al Mamlik" in 1975 in Egypt. However, it was not until 1984 when he played his best role on stage in "Dakat Al Sa'a" that Jassem was on his way to success.

Essence

Jassem who performed more than 50 roles on stage, has the lion's share of radio programmes, such as Cultural Encyclopedia, Top Stars, Bedouin serials and Window of History.

Jassem who sounded serious when asked why he does not act in Kuwaiti films, replied that he would not mind acting in a Kuwaiti film but that would depend on the script, finance and good location.

He added that three Kuwaiti films were produced and all had the same stories, though our



He feels that many a time the essence of stage is lost in commercial productions and the message to the audience is quite contradictory to social values. Young audiences are treated to today's trends and many short stories or parts about the Kuwaiti heritage lose their appeal to these trends. So youngsters are left with no knowledge of their country's beautiful heritage.

About acting he said, an acting career is very tiring. Jassem does not contradict himself with the character.

He said that he dislikes Kuwaiti men who seem more intent on being seen in flashy cars with girlfriends and wasting their time, instead of building a future.

What irritates him the most, he said that most of these youngsters cannot afford the car or the girlfriend.

Jassem said that he believes in equality between women and men and that women are not less capable than men. However, he added that traditions sometimes hinder women from taking up more challenging jobs. He said that he is against the idea of marrying at a young age as it usually ends up with divorce. He added that the best age for marriage is above 24 for both men and women in which they can shoulder more responsibilities.

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He added that three Kuwaiti films were produced and all had the same stories, though our

heritage is full of different episodes. Jassem said that he is working on some serials, but declined to give details as they are intended as a surprise for TV spectators.

Jassem with deep brown eyes, wheatish complexion, good looks and composed character is now 45 years old. He is married and has three sons and four daughters. He does not wear a wedding ring and commented that he attributes it to the habit of taking the ring off completely instead of wearing it. A heavy smoker he admitted that he can stop for a couple of months. He loves wearing classical suits outside Kuwait and believes in the evil-eye. He drives an old Buick 81 and turns deaf when told to change his car for a new one: Jassem feels young at heart even though his eldest son is married.

Likes and dislikes

Being a typical Leo, he loves his home. He is also fond of the sea and feels at home when on a boat as he enjoys cooking fish with rice. He is not possessive and encourages his wife in the art of acting. He disclosed that his wife is the Kuwaiti actress Latifa Al Faraj. Besides, his love for boat outings, he said that he spends his holidays in Germany where he enjoys nature, weather and the company of his friends.

Queried on his dislikes, Jassem cited the heavy demands of Kuwaiti women on husbands. He further added that women here ignore their husbands after having their first child. He added that many Kuwaiti women are usually over dressed and blindly copy Western fashions. On males, he said that he dislikes Kuwaiti men who seem more intent on being seen in flashy cars with girlfriends and wasting their time, instead of building a future.

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Those arrested at the moment have been kept in judicial custody in police centres at Sharq. Meanwhile, security auth-

orities continued investigations into about 100 persons accused of being involved in paying bribes to obtain istimaras and authorities believe that further investigations are expected to involve many more culprits.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES
Thought for today

HUMAN history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe — H.G. Wells, English writer-historian (1866-1946).

Moscow-Seoul courtship

North Korea feels jilted

MOSCOW, (Reuter): The flirtation between the Soviet Union and capitalist South Korea has blossomed into romance and die-hard communist North Korea feels jilted.

Trade is booming and diplomatic envoys issue visas from commercial offices.

In 1983 Soviet fighters shot down a Korean Boeing 747 which strayed into Soviet air space, killing all 269 people on board. Last month Aeroflot and Korean Air Lines put that behind them and started regular flights between Moscow and Seoul.

Only Soviet consideration for North Korea, the 1945 creation of Josef Stalin's Kremlin, prevents the establishment of full diplomatic relations between one of Asia's biggest economies and the stirring giant to the north.

Seoul has been pressing for years for recognition from Moscow, perhaps in tandem with US recognition of Pyongyang.

Relations

Senior southern politician Kim Young-Sam returned from Moscow last month March saying President Mikhail Gorbachev had told him there were no obstacles to full relations.

But the Kremlin still seems wary of angering Kim Il-Sung's absolutist government though it has fewer qualms now about letting its real feelings be known.

"It is understood in North Korea that the Soviet Union should and must have relations with South Korea," Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gremitskikh told reporters on Friday.

"The question of diplomatic relations is not a priority for either side at the moment. But there are opportunities for the development of practical relations," he added, citing as an example the issuing of visas. "This is a very good starting point and this can be continued."

"It will take some time, I believe," said Gyoung Ro-Myung, South Korea's chief envoy — he has the service rank of ambassador, but his title is head of consular department.

"They say they cannot afford to completely sever ties with North Korea and they need time to persuade their ally. We want to see the two Koreas coexist in peace."

Others think things will move more quickly.

"It is my personal opinion that we will not have to wait long (for diplomatic relations)," said Vladilen Vorontsov, editor of the magazine *Problemy Dalnego Vostoka* (Problems of the Far East).

Recognition

"We cannot but recognise a country which has become one of the 10 most developed in the world."

But North Korea remains one of the few communist countries to resist the winds of change unleashed by Gorbachev.

An angry editorial in the official daily *Rodong Sinmun* on Friday blasted its southern rival for trying to cosy up to Moscow and added: "It is unthinkable on a normal orbit that the Soviet Union will involve itself in the 'two Koreas' policy of recognising 'South Korean' contravention of basic principle."

Meanwhile, Moscow-Seoul ties are growing, apparently unhampered by the lack of a formal relationship.

Trade was \$600 million in 1989, more than double the previous year. Gong said it was expected to top \$1 billion this year. More important from Moscow's point of view, the balance was heavily in the Soviet Union's favour.

Gyoung's five consular staff operate from the offices of a commercial company in a Moscow hotel. But they have diplomatic protection and in February they issued their first visa to Moscow University rector Anatoly Logunov.

Cultural and scientific ties are also growing. Posters advertising the impending tour of a South Korean folk dance group are on display in Moscow.

Different

The Soviet media have also begun to project a different view of the divided peninsula after proclaiming unshakable Kremlin support for Kim Il-Sung during his long years of confrontation with the US-backed South, including the 1950-53 Korean War.

Now, while radio and television and the more formal publications stick to a dead-pan image of fraternal, socialist relations with North Korea, independent-minded newspapers are free to criticise.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1552 — France's King Henry II captures Metz and aligns with German Protestants.

1694 — Savoy's duke Victor Amadeus begins siege of Casala in Italy.

1741 — Prussia's Frederick II defeats Austrian forces at Mollwitz and conquers Silesia.

1832 — French law excludes families of Charles X and Napoleon from France; Turkey declares war on Mohammed Ali, Khedive of Egypt.

1864 — Archduke Maximilian of Austria accepts title of Emperor of Mexico.

1898 — France obtains concession in China.

1932 — Paul von Hindenburg is reelected German president over Adolf Hitler.

1945 — US troops liberate Nazi concentration camp at Buchwald, Germany.

1952 — Soviet Union proposes all-German elections be held under a four-power commission instead of under United Nations supervision and rejects West's views on Germany's frontiers.

1961 — Adolf Eichmann, former Nazi, is put on trial as war criminal in an Israeli court in Occupied Jerusalem.

1963 — US atomic submarine Thresher fails to surface after a deep dive in the Northern Atlantic with the loss of 129 lives — the worst submarine disaster in US history.

1972 — United States and Soviet Union sign treaty banning biological warfare.

1976 — Israel goes ahead with elections in occupied West Bank of Jordan despite rioting.

1986 — United States conducts nuclear test in Nevada desert despite growing protests among peace groups and strong Soviet campaign for nuclear test ban.

1987 — 151-nation International Monetary Fund wraps up spring meeting without producing any new initiatives.

1989 — British and Australian forces arrive in northern Namibia to monitor planned withdrawal of black nationalist guerrillas.

Peres could advance talks

Palestinians pin hopes on him

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuter): Many Palestinian leaders say Israeli Prime Minister-designate Shimon Peres can push stalled Arab-Israeli peace efforts forward if he succeeds in forming a government this week.

Arabs in the occupied territories, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, voice general distrust of Israeli leaders' peace intentions but say the Labour Party is a more likely negotiating partner than the right-wing Likud.

"A new government led by Peres would be a serious first step towards promoting peace," said Sari Nusseibeh, a leading Palestinian nationalist in the West Bank.

Nusseibeh says he believes proposed Palestinian-Israeli peace talks in Cairo could take place weeks after the establishment of a government led by Labour.

Peres last month toppled a coalition government led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir over the right-wing premier's refusal to endorse US proposals for the unprecedented talks.

Labour leaders say Peres now enjoys the support of at least 61 deputies, enough to give him a parliamentary majority when he submits his government for approval on Wednesday.

For the first time in the 42-year Arab-Israeli conflict, many Palestinian and Israeli leaders appear close to a common view of the need to negotiate a peace settlement.

Unlike any previous government, a Peres-led cabinet would include those who support trading land for peace and some form of negotiation with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), officially outlawed by Israel as a terrorist organisation.

Peres, in a scathing attack on Likud leaders a week before the coalition collapsed, said it was unrealistic to think the PLO could be excluded from peace efforts.

The new government is likely to include Ezer Weizman, Moshe Shahal and Yossi Beilin, who openly advocate talks with the PLO.

Palestinians say that their 28-month revolt against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has brought down many barriers that separated Palestinians and Israelis for decades.

They say Israel now concedes the need to negotiate with Palestinians instead of Jordan, as Labour previously advocated.

Strengthened by the uprising, Palestinian leaders feel enough confidence to voice support for Peres in his bid to form a new government next week.

In an unprecedented step PLO chairman Yasser Arafat said on Thursday he had asked seven Arab members of the Israeli Parliament to support Peres'



Peres has Palestinian backing

bid to secure a parliamentary majority for his government.

"I have asked Arab deputies present in the Knesset (Parliament) to vote for Peres and it will be the first time this happens," Arafat told Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti during a visit to Rome.

Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories, though more cautious, have also courted the Labour Party.

"If Israelis change their attitudes (towards Palestinians) they will find that for every step they take there will be a Palestinian one," Faisal Al Husseini, one of the most senior pro-PLO figures in the occupied territories, told *Israels* two weeks ago.

Refugees await peace in Zimbabwe

TONGOGARA CAMP, Zimbabwe, (Reuter): From behind a six-foot (1.8 metre) high barbed wire fence, a group of Mozambican refugees stare out at the bleached scrubland around their new home in neighbouring Zimbabwe.

Beyond the fence, two Zimbabwean women tramp down the pale dust road without turning their heads to look at the tattered refugee camp children waving through the coils of wire.

Fences built around refugee camps by the Harare government since 1988 have come to symbolise the growing hostility between 80,000 Mozambicans who fled here to escape civil war at home and the Zimbabweans who took them in.

"(The fence) was put up for their own protection," said Tongogara Camp's deputy administrator, Alexander Sono. "At least this way we can monitor things so there is no basis for complaint."

Government officials decided to fence in the camps dotted along the border with Mozambique after Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) guerrillas said in 1987 they would attack Zimbabwean targets.

Hundreds of Zimbabweans along the eastern border have been killed in raids by the insurgents, blamed in their own country for carrying out attacks on night raids, he shrugged and said: "Once in a while, OK."

"The country of asylum has responsibility for the security of refugees, and it's their prerogative to take the measures it considers necessary," said Zimbabwe's representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Godfrey Sabiti.

Permit

He said the UNHCR understood refugees were allowed out of the camps if they had permission to collect firewood or go to the nearest village.

Over 40,000 people are now penned up at Tongogara, build for 15,000. They say they have enough to eat, adequate sanitary and health care and are safe from the war.

Mujirias Zacarias, a refugee whose weather-beaten face is topped by a battered peaked cap, said

he was happy at Tongogara. "It's safe here, and they feed me," he said. "I only want to go home if there's peace."

Tongogara camp administrator David Mambu said press reports of refugee violence were exaggerated and the fence was built "just to make sure everything is secure."

"It wasn't because of a security problem," he said, adding that any such problems probably occurred at other camps at Nyangombe, Nyamutikiri or Mazowe River. He said inmates of Tongogara were not allowed out into Zimbabwe.

Asked if people from Tongogara ever slipped out on night raids, he shrugged and said: "Once in a while, OK."

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Freedom

US Ambassador for Refugees Jewel Lafontant, visiting Tongogara on a tour of camps, said the physical conditions in Malawi were far worse than those in Zimbabwe, but that refugees in Malawi had complete freedom of movement and were accepted as a part of the local community.

"I was very impressed by the generosity of the Malawians," she added.

However, the bulk of refugees — about 800,000 of them — have trekked north to Malawi, where Mozambicans now make up a tenth of the population.

Results

The question is how many are in each camp?

The only known instance of a test, albeit limited, of public sentiment occurred in an east Havana neighbourhood a year ago. The results were not encouraging for the government.

A human rights activist, Roberto Bahamonde, ran for a municipal assembly seat as a proponent of a free press, free speech and free enterprise — befitting views in Marxist Cuba.

He lost 60-30, but there were 59 abstentions in the show-of-hands vote. Presumably, many who abstained were closer Bahamonde supporters who felt voting for him openly could lead to charges of disloyalty.

The establishment candidate, Gerardo Almada, won slightly more than 40 per cent of the vote, virtually the same as president Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua in his losing re-election campaign in February.

Bahamonde was arrested two weeks after election night and won't be free until July. The government says his detention is based on participation in illegal meetings and on economic crimes rather than his political stands.

ARAB TIMES, TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1990

Cuban public opinion hard to assess

HAVANA, (AP): Did the Americans play into Fidel Castro's hands by starting TV broadcasts to Cuba, giving him a credible new complaint about US imperialism, or has jamming the broadcasts increased hostility among his people?

Judging public opinion in a relatively closed country like Cuba is a highly speculative undertaking.

Cubans would like a more varied TV menu, but no one knows for sure what they think of the Voice of America operation, known as TV Marti. For that matter, estimates of support for the revolution itself after 31 years differ wildly.

Like Radio Marti, another Voice of America venture, TV Marti's purpose is to provide balanced news and entertainment to a country where the US government says both are in short supply.

Listener

There is broad disagreement about how many listeners Radio Marti has after five years. One dissident described the audience as "massive," but Havana officials call it trifling.

There are no reliable polls of public sentiment in Cuba. Some people wonder whether Castro is as oblivious to the public mood as were the Eastern European leaders ousted by popular uprising last year.

Cuban officials insist they have mechanisms that ensure people an opportunity to complain publicly without fear.

In the Regla section of Havana last Monday, local leaders heard dozens of complaints from hundreds of citizens.

Gripes were aired about the transportation system and the uneven distribution of goods to neighbourhood stores. Similar meetings were held this past week all over the island.

How durable is the revolution? Can Castro make viable a system that is being reviled in other places that tried it?

A leader of the young communist league on Tuesday night predicted, somewhat extravagantly, that his group would still be functioning in 28,000 years.

Discontent

Two days later, a leader of a human rights group predicted, no less extravagantly, that popular discontent resulting from economic hardship will bring Castro down in less than a year.

Whatever the truth, Castro is going all out to use the TV Marti issue to rally support.

There is little doubt many Cubans agree with him that the broadcasts, which began March 27, violate national sovereignty.

TV Marti, Castro says, is a "gross instrument of subversion." Naming the station after the hero of Cuba's independence struggle, he says, is like an American naming a house of prostitution for George Washington.

Boredom is a constant companion for many Cubans, however. They are intensely curious about what kind of programming TV Marti would bring and are disappointed by the successful jamming efforts.

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QUOTE ME

6 "We are ready to talk with the United States on the basis of mutual respect, reciprocal benefit, quality and sovereignty. We have to resolve with the United States the problem of the occupation of part of Cuban territory. Now that it is in fashion to withdraw foreign troops from other countries ... the United States must do the same thing with Cuba. We do not have any desire for US troops to remain on Cuban territory."

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Iran signs natural gas protocol with Soviet Union

ATHENS, April 9, (UPI): Iran will resume the export of its natural gas to the Soviet Union, after an 11-year break, under a new protocol signed yesterday, the Islamic Republic News Agency said.

Under the protocol, signed in Tehran, Iran is due to export 3 billion cubic metres of gas a year to the Soviet Union, but the volume could be boosted to 10 billion cubic metres, an Iran dispatch monitored in Athens said.

The news agency did not say when the gas would start flowing across the Iran-Soviet border, but an earlier report said the exports would be resumed in the next few days.

Iran exported 10 billion cubic metres of natural gas a year to the Soviets during the regime of the late Shah between 1970 and 1979, but the spigot was turned off on the Iranian side of the border in 1979 after Ayatollah Khomeini assumed power.

Khomeini argued that Moscow was not paying enough for the gas. The Soviets, who have the largest proven reserves of natural gas in the world, agreed to terminate a deal they signed with the Shah, rather than pay more.

But in June last year, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev agreed in a meeting with Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in Moscow that the Kremlin would pay prices based on those available on the world market.

This ended the 11-year dispute, and the past few months were spent ironing out a price formula and making technical preparations for a resumption of the gas sales.

Regional analysts said Moscow's decision to start buying Iranian gas again, even though it had an abundant supply of its own, was politically motivated, not commercially.

Iran will use its gas sales to pay for Soviet goods and services needed to

implement the current 5-year development plan, running from 1989 to 1994.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said Iran expects to earn some \$300 million a year from the gas sales.

Through accounting arrangements, this money will be paid back to the Soviet Union for its technical assistance to Iran in the building of several dams and power stations, boosting the capacity of the Isfahan steel mill, and

other projects.

The Soviet Union has managed to improve its relations with Iran, after a dip during the 8-year Gulf war, while Tehran's ties with the United States and Britain remained disrupted.

The protocol signed Sunday followed the arrival in Tehran on Thursday of a delegation of officials from the state-owned Soviet Sayuzgazexport Company and the Gas Industry Ministry in Moscow.

Migrants have hard job hunt in Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 9, (Reuters): Yuri Melman was a mathematics professor before he left Leningrad for a new life in Israel. Now he drives a taxi.

Soviet Jewish immigrants pouring in daily are eager, hard-working and educated. But with unemployment at a two-decade high, job-hunting is a daunting experience.

In the struggle for survival, the only alternative may be to abandon one's credentials.

Some 50 highly educated Soviet Jews are packing fruit in boxes for export in the town of Rehovot. Another 60 are working in a textile factory near the city of Ashdod.

In Kiryat Yam, Soviet doctors are sweeping the streets, said David Menna, director-general of Israel's employment service.

Difficult

At the canteen of the Jewish agency, a quasi state body which promotes immigration, one of the tea ladies was a doctor in Siberia two months ago.

"Soviet Jews know it's difficult to find work here because of unemployment and the economic situation so they agree to work at any job we can provide," Menna told Reuters.

Israel's 8.9 per cent unemployment rate is the highest since the 10 per cent registered just before the 1967 six-day war and the economy is stagnant. The rate was 6.4 per cent in 1988.

Unemployment is likely to rise further in the coming months, Labour Ministry officials said.

For every job in physics there are 61 candidates. Twelve biologists queue for each laboratory opening. There are seven doctors and seven electrical engineers for each position. Four university professors compete for each teaching job.

Meanwhile planeloads of Soviet nuclear physicists, biochemists and geophysicists arrive in the Jewish state daily.

Labour Party leader Shim'on Peres said: "7:300" Soviet immigrants arrived in March, taking the total so far this year to more than 18,000.

Only 10 per cent are unskilled, the Labour Ministry said. Sixty per cent have professional or technical qualifications.

But many have very specific skills for which there is no market in Israel — such as ice engineers and fur engineers.

Officials expect about 100,000 Soviet immigrants to arrive this year. Some 750,000 are expected in the next five years — the biggest wave of immigration in 30 years.

While the exodus has alarmed Palestinians and the Arab world, Israeli leaders enthusiastically welcome the newcomers, saying they will enrich the country with their culture and skills and inject life into the stagnant economy.

"This Aliya (immigration) is like a blessing from heaven. It is the fulfillment of the Biblical prophecy ... they are a good element — motivated, patriotic, constructive and productive," Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said recently.

The need to build 30,000 homes for the immigrants fuelled heated debate when legislators voted on a new budget for the fiscal year starting April 1. Parliament added a last-minute \$100 million allocation for housing.

But some officials said the government should have worried about employment first.

"It's a real problem ... the priority should be employment then housing," Menna said.

Rafi Melnik, head of the central bank's research department, said the biggest challenge was to harness the immigrants' skills to further boosting Israel's already overmanned public sector.

"There is a big question mark over whether the business community will rise to the challenge," he told Reuters.

The Soviet Jews usually spend six months in intensive Hebrew language programmes before beginning their job hunt.

KD interbank deposit rates

KUWAIT, April 9, (Reuters): Short dates on the Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit market were well off this morning, dealers said, and eased as a result.

Overnight earlier dealt at 7-1/2 per cent, while spot/next dealt at 8-1/4, 8-1/8 and later at 7-7/8.

Little activity was reported in fixed dates, as the market awaited the weekly treasury bill issue, although dealers said that three months to one year were slightly firmer.

Central banks prop up ailing yen

LONDON, April 9, (Reuters): The Central banks of West Germany, Britain and Switzerland sold dollars for yen in early European trading today to prop up the Japanese currency, which opened firmer but then faltered slightly, dealers said.

When the intervention occurred, the currency market had been trying to gauge how deeply the Group of Seven industrial nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada — were committed to helping the ailing Japanese currency.

G-7 finance ministers said after a meeting in Paris yesterday that the yen's current weakness was undesirable, but currency dealers said in initial reaction that they saw little sign of an intervention pact to support the yen.

The Bank of Japan had sold dollars for yen intermittently in morning Asian trading today.

The yen opened in Europe at 156.70 to the dollar and 1,0810 marks per 100 yen today after closing on Friday at 157.25 yen per dollar in London and 1,0765 marks per hundred yen in Frankfurt.

But it eased back slightly in early trading and the Central banks intervened. By 0900 GMT, less than half an hour after the intervention started, the yen was quoted at 156.72 to the dollar and 1,0782 marks per 100.

After yesterday's meeting in Paris, which lasted almost eight hours, the G-7 ministers and Central Banks sent a coded message in their final communiqué that they would intervene on currency markets to support yen and they pledged to keep developments under review."

Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Monday that the group of seven industrial countries' (G-7) weekend meeting proved that the sliding yen was unfavourable.

Hashimoto told the Japanese parliament (Diet), the G-7 showed their concern that the unstable yen would stand in the way of efforts for correcting the foreign trade imbalance and prevent the easy flow of money.

US dollar declines

PARIS, April 9, (Kuna): The US dollar declined to 5.6850 francs, at the opening of bank transactions here today, from 5.7010 at the fixing last Friday.

The pound sterling was traded at 9.35 francs from 9.3390, the Deutsche mark at 3.3590 from 3.3612, the Swiss franc at 3.7980 from 3.8020, the Belgian franc at 16.25 from 16.253, for 100 Belgian francs, and the Japanese yen at 3.6250 from 3.6255, for 100 yen.

Gold was quoted at \$381.96 an ounce.

KD foreign exchange rate

GENEVA, April 9, (Kuna): At the start of foreign exchange trading in Switzerland today, one Kuwaiti dinar was trading at 5.0908 Swiss francs, as against 5.0931 at the close of trading last Friday, the Swiss-Kuwaiti Bank reported.

Against the dinar, the German mark opened at 5.7526 (5.7706), the pound sterling 2.0730 (2.0765), Japanese yen 532.0417 (536.2066), and the US dollar 3.4022 (3.3999).

Tokyo shares

Nikkei stock average: 3751.67 (-653.36)

Volume: 600 mil shs

Yen exchange rate: 145.35

Name of stock

Advantest Corp. 4976

Ajinomoto 2120

Asics Electric 2030

Asahi 1550

Asahi Chem Ind. 587

Asahi Glass 1840

C. Itoh Co. 841

Canon Inc. 1850

Casio Corp. 1580

Dai Nippon Printing 2110

Daiichi Seiyaku 2530

Dainippon Ph. 2500

Daihinku Corp. 1740

Eisa 1850

Fanuc Ltd. 7370

Fuji Photo 4170

Fujitsu Ltd. 1540

Hitachi Credit 1430

Hitachi Kok. 2090

Hitachi Ltd. 1710

Hitachi Metal. 1320

Honda Motor. 1910

Tokyo Elec Power. 4060

Tokyo Electron Ltd. 4150

Tappan Printing. 1920

Toray Ind Inc. 806

Toshiba Corp. 1170

Toyota Motor. 2530

Yaskawa Elec. 1030

Provided by Nomura Investment Banking (Mideast), Bahrain

Bonn to get a big boost through economic union with East

BONN, West Germany, April 9, (AP): Five leading financial institutes predict West Germany's already mighty economy will get a big boost from its planned economic union with East Germany, a newspaper reported.

The reported prediction supports contentions by West German leaders that no tax increases will be needed to finance the heavy costs of German unification.

According to yesterday's editions of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, the five institutes have forecast economic growth of 4 per

cent this year for West Germany. That's far better than the institute's earlier forecasts of 3 per cent to 3.5 per cent.

But the institutes also say strong economic growth in West Germany over the next two years hinges on East Germany scrapping its planned economy in favour of a free-market system, the newspaper said.

West Germany's economic, legal and tax systems will have to be adopted by East Germany, the newspaper quoted the institutes as saying in a joint report.

West Germany has launched plans to create an economic union with East Germany on the road to German unification.

Concern has been raised among some West Germans that the costs of unification could prove to be a heavy economic burden, including tax increases.

But according to the Frankfurt newspaper, the institutes are predicting that the rebuilding of East Germany will actually provide additional growth impulses for West Germany's economy.



Trading signs

Stock brokers get tangled up with their trading signs at the Tokyo Stock Exchange yesterday as shares rose sharply on a stronger yen after a Group of Seven Nations (G-7) meeting on Saturday agreed to prop up the currency. Shares surged 1,119.15 points to close at 30,397.93. (Reuters wirephoto)

Oil prices lower

Opec output highest

NICOSIA, April 9, (Reuters): Crude oil output by 13 Opec member states reached 24,09 million barrels per day (bpd) in March, the highest since 1981, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported.

The MEES estimated for March Opec production is marginally higher than last year's monthly peak of 24.0 million bpd recorded in December, the Nicosia-based oil industry newsletter said.

The Opec (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) March output level is two million bpd higher than the group's production ceiling of 22,086 million, agreed last November.

The dollar, which traded at 143.40 yen at the end of last year, slipped almost 20 yen during the last three months to 160 yen before falling back slightly.

Many analysts believe, however, that some G-7 countries are reluctant to help Japan prop up its currency because they see the yen's weakness as a domestic problem. Expectations of possible intervention to curb the dollar's rising value, they say, are temporarily helping the yen.

The rebound in prices on the Stock Exchange after three months of almost continual decline was directly linked to the yen's surge against the dollar, traders said.

The Nikkei average has declined over 20 per cent, or 8,517.94 points, since the end of last year.

Kozo Hasunuma, a trader with Yamaichi Securities Co. attributed the index's surge today to G-7 statement that stressed the importance of the yen's stability, which he said reassured stock investors.

"The index's increase slowed down in the afternoon when some market players sold issues for profit-taking, but as a whole, their buying incentive was strong throughout the day," he said.

An estimated 800 million shares changed hands in one of the most active trading days in recent weeks.

In bond dealings, the price of the benchmark No. 119 Japanese government bond closed at 86.73 points, up from Friday's close of 86.38, as bond investors were reassured by the yen's strength against the dollar. The No. 19's yield fell to 7.205 per cent from 7.275 per cent on Friday.

Meanwhile, Bank of Japan governor Yasushi Mieno told a news conference today that the yen's weakness was due to speculation and that speculative pressure in the market would be met by co-ordinated G-7 action.

He emphasised that the Paris G-7 meeting was the first in which the yen was specifically mentioned in the communiqué.

The programme will include presentations by:

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, former chancellor of the exchequer; Clay Timon, world president of International Advertising Association (IAA) and director of World-wide Advertising College-Palmolive; Ali Ghandour, special advisor to King Hussein of Jordan; Dr Loukas Tsoukalis, international relations department, St Antony's College

KD slightly higher against US dollar

Gulf Bank weekly report

Kuwaiti dinar

BASED on last week's opening middle market foreign exchange rates, the KD exchange rate traded slightly higher against the US dollar ending the week at 293.97 fils compared with its week before last closing of 294.10 fils. The KD traded lower against the pound sterling, ending the week at 484.10 fils compared with its week before last closing of 480.12 fils. The KD was lower against the Deutsche mark, ending the week at 172.84 fils compared with its week before last closing of 172.17 fils. The KD was also lower against the Swiss franc ending the week at 195.52 fils compared with its week before last closing of 194.90 fils. The KD was lower against the Canadian dollar ending the week at 251.46 fils compared with its week before last closing of 249.54 fils. The KD was lower against the Australian dollar ending the week at 225.03 fils compared with its week before last closing at 220.06 fils.

The KD was higher against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 436.81 fils compared with its week before last closing of 437.00 fils. The KD traded slightly higher against all other GCC currencies compared in the week before last rates.

As for the KD money market rates, short term interbank offer rates, traded relatively higher compared to their previous rates. One month and 3 months rates traded around 8.81 percent - 8.93 percent range compared to 8.81 percent - 8.87 percent range the week before last. Both six-month and 12-months rates traded also higher at 9.00 percent - 9.06 percent range compared to 8.93 percent - 9.00 percent range the week before last.

As for Treasury Bills, the Central Bank announced two new T-Bills, the first is three-month T-Bill issue No. (108) of KD 50 million, with effective and maturity dates of April 11 and June 11 1990, respectively. The second issue is six-months T-Bill issue No. (109), of KD 50 million with effective and maturity dates of April 11 and Oct 10, 1990 respectively.

World stock markets

Wall Street stock prices fluctuated sharply last week, moving higher on futures-related buying, firm bond prices and relief over the US stock markets' resilience in the face of Turkey's weakness. However, prices eased later on uncertainty about the strength of the US economy and the direction of exchange rates. The Dow-Jones Industrial average opened the week at 2,700 and closed higher at 2,717, recording a gain of 10 points over the previous week's closing of 2,707.

Share prices in the London

Stock Exchange traded sharply lower in reaction to Monday's steep fall in Tokyo. Market sentiment was further depressed by Wall Street's downturn later in the week. The FTSE-100 opened and closed the week at 2,221, recording a loss of 25 points over the previous week's closing of 2,246.

Stock prices on the Tokyo stock market fell sharply last week, with much selling inspired by a local newspaper article speculating that insurance companies planned a stock sell-off. However, managers of many large insurance firms later denied any plans to dump shares. Also

Pound sterling

The pound sterling opened the week against the US dollar at 1.6330/40 dollars and closed higher at 1.6420/30 dollars, but slightly lower compared to its week before last closing at 1.6445/55 dollars.

The pound fell sharply earlier last week following violent unrest in the heart of London over the previous week-end due to the introduction of the unpopular new form of local taxation known as poll tax.

However, the pound recovered later as attention turned back to high yielding currencies.

The pound showed an reaction to news that retail sales rose 2.2 per cent in February after falling 0.9 per cent in January and that new consumer credit totalled £3.74 bn in the same month, down from £3.97 bn in January.

Despite the recovery, the pound is still highly vulnerable in any adverse news in the political front, although it was already discounting a lot of bad economic news. It so far has managed to absorb the negative impact of recent rioting in the UK and continued declines in the oil price, while Prime Minister Thatcher's Conservative government.

Japanese yen

The yen opened the week against the US dollar at 150.35/45 yen and closed the week lower at 157.73/83 yen, but higher compared with its week before last closing of 158.50/60 yen.

The yen remained under pressure ahead of the G-7 meeting, while the ailing Tokyo shares kept the yen depressed.

The US purchasing managers' index rose in March to 48.8 per cent from 48.3 per cent in February. A reading below 50 per cent indicates the manufacturing sector of the US economy generally is declining, while a reading above 50 per cent suggests it is generally expanding.

The production index rose in its highest level since April of 1989. New export orders jumped in 59.5 per cent in March from 53

per cent for the month of February.

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The deal would greatly expand Pepsi-cola's availability in the Soviet Union, the newspaper reported. It also would allow Pepsi-cola for the first time to take its profits not only in Stolichnaya vodka but in freighters and tankers as well.

Company officials could not immediately be reached for comment on the report.

The Pepsi deal is being closely watched as an indicator of whether Western companies can prosper in the Soviet market, now opening under the reform policies of President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Since 1974, Pepsi has shipped its soft-drink syrup to the Soviet Union, made it into cola and sold the bottled product. It has taken out its profits in Stolichnaya vodka until the United States through a third party.

Under the new arrangement, the Soviet Union would trade at least 10 tankers and freighters, ranging in size from 28,600 tonnes to 65,000 tonnes, with a total value of more than \$300 million, the Times reported.

The new deal also would let Pepsi increase its Soviet bottling network from 26 to 50 plants. It would eventually make possible the nation-wide distribution of soft drinks in aluminum cans and plastic bottles instead of the cumbersome glass bottles now used.

Pepsi, which is based in Purchase, New York, had sales last year of more than \$15 billion, making it one of the biggest consumer-product companies in the world. It was one of the first companies to enter the Soviet market.

The three-billion-dollar value of the contract represents retail sales of Pepsi-cola and Stolichnaya vodka until the year 2000, the newspaper said. That figure assumes a devaluation of the ruble, which is not freely traded on world currency markets.

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Some forms of co-operation are planned, first of all some production lines for products such as buses in Romania and later on for the foundation of some commercial companies," he told a news conference.

He had been asked about talks he had on Saturday with Werner Niefer, a Daimler-Benz board member.

Romania-Daimler talks: Romania plans a plant to build buses in co-operation with the West German firm Daimler-Benz. Prime Minister Petre Roman said on Sunday.

"Some forms of co-operation are planned, first of all some production lines for products such as buses in Romania and later on for the foundation of some commercial companies," he told a news conference.

He had been asked about talks he had on Saturday with Werner Niefer, a Daimler-Benz board member.

Mazda to increase overseas imports

HIROSHIMA, Japan, April 9. (UPI): Mazda Motor Corp., Japanese affiliate of Ford Motor Co. of the United States, said today it will boost imports from overseas suppliers, particularly in North America, and promote joint development with foreign parts makers.

The Hiroshima-based automaker said the decision is in line with its import expansion programme adopted last October.

The company said it plans to expand and strengthen joint development for new models with overseas engineering companies.

G-7 ready to aid Japanese yen

Industrial powers worried of a sliding Tokyo currency

PARIS, April 9 (AP): The seven leading industrial powers have put the financial markets on notice that they intend to come to the aid of the Japanese yen if it gets into much trouble, analysts said.

But the countries left it unclear just how much help they would give to the ailing Japanese currency if its value slides further.

"There hasn't been a lot said about what they would do for the yen," said Stephen King, international economist at the London Investment House of James Capel and Co.

"It all sounds less than the best outcome for Japan," said Brendan Brown, head of research at Mitsubishi Finance International.

Financial chiefs from the group of seven nations — Britain, Canada, France, West

Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — wrapped up talks on Saturday at the French finance ministry by worrying about the "undesirable consequences" of a sliding yen.

They promised to keep the exchange markets "under review" and renewed their commitment to co-ordinating economic policies, including cooperation in the exchange markets.

But the officials didn't spell out what steps they might take to prop up the sagging yen. US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady even played down concerns about the yen, suggesting that the currency wasn't necessarily trading too cheaply.

The dollar early last week jumped to a three-year high against the yen before falling back some. At Friday's New York close of 157.70 yen, the dollar has risen

about 10 per cent against the yen since the start of the year.

The yen's weakness has coincided with a plunge in Japanese stocks that has seen the Tokyo stock exchange lose about 25 per cent of its value this year.

A stronger dollar threatens efforts to whittle down the enormous \$49 billion trade deficit the United States runs with Japan. It makes Japanese products cheaper for Americans and boosts the price in US goods overseas.

In the past, the G-7 nations

have banded together to intervene in the financial markets by buying and selling currencies, mostly to brake any sharp rise in the dollar.

King said the minister's statement was "possibly a slight hint we might be seeing stepped up intervention in the next few days."

"It would be strange," he said, "to draw attention to the problem and then do nothing."

Brown said financial markets "can't rule out that there will be heavy intervention" by the American and Japanese central banks in the coming days.

"We didn't do this to let the yen fall," Hashimoto said.

Brady refused to comment when asked if promises were made in the Japanese "bit," he added, "I don't want to indicate to you that means there were promises made."

A senior West German official also played down concerns about the yen in advance of the talks.

"There's no reason to unnecessarily dramatize developments in Japan," the official said.

Monetary authorities also can try to adjust currency values by manipulating interest rates, but analysts don't expect any movement in this area.

Nevertheless, the President of Japan's Central Bank, Yasushi Mieno, and Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told reporters they were confident the other nations were prepared to keep the yen from tumbling further.

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Sabanci from rags-to-riches

Recalls past

ISTANBUL, April 9. (Reuters): An old wooden plough adorns the entrance in the Istanbul headquarters of Sakip Sabanci's business empire, a poignant reminder of his family's rags-to-riches story.

"My father began life from zero as a humble cotton worker. He was very careful with money and saved, saved, saved," said Sabanci, 56, an eccentric billionaire whose interests range from electronics, banking and textiles to hotels and bottled water.

Widely regarded as the "people's tycoon" who enjoys mixing with workers as much as with the high and mighty, he is one of Turkey's most popular public figures.

"I relax when I am very successful in the economic or social area. If I am in one of my factories shaking hands with managers and workers, I am happy," he told Reuters in a recent interview.

He rarely carries more than a few thousand lira — just enough to pay for a taxi or hire a ride — and dresses in a style that would make devotees of high fashion wince.

The Sabanci family numbers President Turgut Ozal among its past employees and a former prime minister as top executive of its bank, Akbank.

Its rise mirrors Turkey's struggle to enter the ranks of developed countries.

Sabanci's penniless father, Haci Omer Sabanci, is reputed to have walked 300 km (200 miles) through the barren Anatolian heartland in the depressed 1920s to seek a cotton worker's job.

He later became a shareholder in a cotton ginning plant in the Mediterranean city of Adana.

Now, Sakip Sabanci and his four brothers, who maintain close control of Haci Omer Sabanci Holding As., are looking abroad to fresh markets in Europe and Asia.

"My father believed that family members should understand each other," said Sabanci, who entered the Forbes magazine list of world billionaires in 1989.

"Today's success of the Sabanci group is due not to the capital, the technology or the equipment. The reason is that members of the family are continuing the same way," he said.

Sabanci said the family would always retain at least a 75 per cent shareholding. It was 100 per cent until 1972, when the group started to sell small stakes in others.

The name "Haci Omer" litters Sabanci's conversations as he sits beneath a painting of his late father, dwarfing smaller signed ones of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and former US presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan.

Power

"He was number one. When I was aged 13 or 14 he took me to the factories and gave me the power to handle company money and sign and fill blank cheques," he said.

Sabanci, head of the governing body of the influential association of Turkish businessmen and industrialists, is always ready to speak out on domestic politics and the economy.

"I would vote for any (political) leader who could ensure stable leadership," he said, referring to squabbling in the centre-right government triggered mainly by disputes over economic policy and inflation, now at an annual 62.8 per cent.

With annual turnover estimated at 10.2 trillion lire (\$4 billion) in 1989, Haci Omer Sabanci holding is among the first 200 in Fortune magazine's list of the largest 500 industrial companies outside the United States.

Sabanci's main business thrust over the past decade has been tie-ups and joint ventures with foreign firms, including European banks and electric companies, US and Japanese cord and tyre companies and large insurance outfits.

Sabanci and Japan's Toyota Motor Co. have agreed in principle to form a joint venture to produce Toyota cars in a factory in Adapazari, western Turkey, from 1993.

"Our basic future is with Western Europe but I believe, I hope, 50 per cent of the firm will be involved with Japan," he said.

"We must have relations with the Japanese. We need them. They (the Japanese) are doing very well with technology and have discipline and hard workers," he added.

In the next 10 years Sabanci plans to streamline the company, now comprising about 50 multi-faceted arms, into 10 individual integrated groups each capable of reaching \$500 million in turnover annually.

Sabanci, an keen admirer of traditional Turkish arts, gives much of his wealth to promoting culture, education and welfare, and building student dormitories, libraries and theatres.

Courage has been a hallmark of the Sabanci family.

"Training, learning, knowledge and experience give me courage," Sabanci said in his book "This Is My Life."

"The courageous person is the one who has confidence in himself. The courageous person is not the one who faces the risks but the one who is capable of eliminating them entirely."

Israel stock market surges

TEL AVIV, April 9. (Reuters): Volume and prices surged on the Tel Aviv stock exchange yesterday in anticipation of a new Israeli government under Labor Party leader Shimon Peres.

The market's main index rose 4.1 per cent, breaking the psychological barrier of 200 points to end at 200.08. Turnover jumped to 30 million shekels (\$151 million), compared with an average of 18 million shekels last week.

Peres is expected to form a government on Wednesday, end-

ing a month of political uncertainty following the defeat in a parliamentary confidence vote of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Brokers said the market also welcomed the possibility of Yitzhak Shamir deserting Shamir and joining Peres. Peres was reported to have offered the finance portfolio to Shamir.

Modai was finance minister and Peres was prime minister in the 1983 government that turned around the economy and slashed inflation from 445 per cent in 1984 to 19.5 per cent in 1986.

EVENTS

Odissi dance: highlight of India Festival



PREPARATIONS for the India Festival are going on in full swing and the inaugural function has been fixed on April 25, 1990 at 8 pm at Indian Arts Circle, Funatees. The organisers have succeeded in getting the famous Odissi dancer, Ranjana Gauhar to perform on the inaugural day. She will be presenting another Odissi dance on April 29 at the Indian Arts Circle. It will be a privilege for the people in Kuwait to witness the Odissi dance at its most brilliant form. The beauty and the harmonious movement of this dance form has made it popular not only in India but all over the world. Odissi has a prominent place in the various dance forms which have originated from the ancient land of India.

Having completely surrendered her mind, body and soul to dance, Ranjana Gauhar's commitment to Odissi is a deep devotion. Enchanted audiences have raved that watching her dance transcends them from the material world of reality into a sublime spiritual odyssey. When she dances, the splendour of the style and the beauty of the dancer blend so harmoniously as if, Ranjana and Odissi were made for each other.

Inspired, encouraged and blessed by eminent gurus of Odissi, Ranjana has danced extensively in India, Europe, England and America. Performances at the Festival of India, Queen Elizabeth Royal Festival Hall, Commonwealth Institute, Dehli Museum, Berlin, West Germany, and several appearances on Indian, British, American and German television are a few of her highly successful accomplishments.

Commitment to her art is translated into a commitment to society. Through Utsav Society which she initiated and established three years ago, Ranjana teaches the art of Odissi to talented students whatever their socio-economic background. She even choreographed, taught and staged ballets by physically handicapped children.

It is given to only a few in their life time to transform the lives of others. Ranjana Gauhar achieves this, both as a dancer and a concerned citizen.

The inaugural function on April 25 will be followed for the next 3 days by cultural shows and exhibitions. On 26th, 27th and 28th April, cultural shows from various states of India will be presented between 10 am and 11.30 am at the Indian Arts Circle Auditorium. Artists belonging to various States in India, who are residing in Kuwait, are showing tremendous enthusiasm in preparing for the cultural shows to be performed on these 3 days.

From 26th to 28th, during the Eid holidays, there will be an exhibition of Indian products at the stalls at the Indian Arts Circle premises. All the stalls for the exhibition have been already taken up by the exhibitors and a large variety of Indian clothes, handicrafts and other products will be available at these stalls. Apart from this, there will be a large number of food stalls where various types of Indian delicacies will be made available. The organisers of the festival have not spared any efforts to create a real Indian 'Mela' atmosphere during the Eid holidays.

One of the major attractions of the festival is the lucky draw of the master coupon for which the First Prize will be a Toyota Cressida car. Apart from this, there are other 19 valuable prizes for the lucky draw. Master coupon will also ensure two concessionary entries to the Indian Arts Circle premises during the festival period and free entry for the gala concluding ceremony scheduled for 4pm on May 4, 1990.



Cathay Pacific - 1990 Regional Conference

Cathay Pacific recently held its 1990 Regional Conference for Middle East and India, with 75 delegates from the Gulf, Levant, India, Pakistan and Hong Kong.

'1989 has been a successful year both system-wide and in the region,' stated Robert Atkinson, newly appointed general manager Middle East and India who chaired the conference.

Besides a quick reflection on 1989, the conference agreed on priorities for 1990 on a wide range of topics ranging from marketing, staff, customer service and accounts.

Attending the conference from the airline's head office in Hong Kong was Rowland Cobbold, marketing director and speakers from this region included Rajeev Budhiraja, pricing and marketing services manager Middle East and Peter Langston, manager India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

During the lunch session the chief guest speaker, Tariq Almoayed, minister of information of Bahrain outlined the role of Bahrain in developing tourism in the future. He thanked Cathay Pacific for their commitment to Bahrain with daily flights to Hong Kong and London. The minister was accompanied by Jamil Wafa, chairman and chief executive of Unigat Group, Cathay Pacific GSA in Bahrain.

Pictured in the centre is Tariq Almoayed, minister of information, State of Bahrain. On his right is Rowland Cobbold, marketing director, Cathay Pacific, Hong Kong and Jamil Wafa, chairman and chief executive Unigat Group, Bahrain. On his right is Robert Atkinson, general manager Middle East and India, Cathay Pacific, Bahrain and Rajeev Budhiraja, pricing and marketing services manager Middle East, Cathay Pacific, Bahrain.

PRAYERS

Imsak	3.56
Fajr	4.06
Zohr	11.49
Asr	3.23
Maghreb	6.12
Isha	7.30

• All entries for the What's On Column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

1.00 The opening and Holy Quran
1.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.30 World Animals: Cultural serial
2.00 Kabool Adventures: Cartoon serial
2.30 Maa Al Sabreen: Historical serial (part 15)
3.10 Human Health: cultural programme (part 15)
3.35 Gabdahay Bahlool: Arabic serial (part 15)
4.15 Kaseel Al Ekhra: Local programme (part 15) prepared and presented by Dr Najeeb Al Refai

4.30 Rafat Al Hajan: Arabic serial (part 15)
5.30 Hadith Deen: Religious programme presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi

6.15 Baad Al Eftar: Religious programme
6.30 Mazenger Journey: Cartoon serial (part 15)
7.00 Mademal Al Ajayeb: Local children serial (part 15)

7.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements

8.15 A religious symposium
9.00 Juhayna: Cultural programme (part 15)
9.45 Sawalef Min Al Madhi: Local programme

10.00 News in Arabic
10.45 The Family: Local serial (part 15)

11.45 3x3: Variety game show (part 15)

12.30 Share Al Mawardia: Arabic serial (part 15)
1.15 Adam Bedouin Gheta: Arabic feature film, starring Nelly and Mohammed Subhi

3.00 News summary
3.05 The World Today via Satellite
3.20 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

8.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
8.10 Short Story Special: A cartoon series for children
8.30 Night of the Red Hunter
9.00 News in English
9.30 Welcome Ramadan: A religious programme on the occasion of Holy Ramadan

9.45 You and the Law: A weekly local informative programme on law and regulations enforced in the State of Kuwait

10.00 Faith and Science: Food all over the World: Kinds of food, methods of processing and preservation of food all over the world

10.30 Horizon: Why buildings make you sick: Certain buildings cause headache, coughing, difficult breathing for some people. A study on ventilation... lighting... heating and air-conditioning in modern buildings

11.45 Murphy Brown Devil with the Blue Dressing: Murphy plans to hold an interview with a mysterious young businessman but the producer insists on bringing along a very beautiful girl name Kurti who plays the main role in the interview

12.30 Wolf: "Running on Empty": A 17-year-old student falls dead while training. His mother appoints Elliot to file a case against the school. In the meantime the coach seeks Tony's help. Elliot plans to find out whether drugs are used in training or not

1.30 News in Brief
1.45 Magazine D'Actualite

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus

Cold Steel
Al Salimiyah
Good Morning Vietnam
Al Haara
Topline
Drive-In
Raiders of Paradise
Al Firdous
Aakhi Ghulam
Fahsheel Open
Nighahan

Messilah Beach Hotel Club

WINDSURFING: 6 levels of windsurfing lessons for beginners and intermediates. Each level lasts about 3 hours. The instructor is the present British windsurfing champion. Private lessons on request.

WATER SKIING: 2 courses, one for beginners and one for progressing to monoskiing.

SPEED BOAT INSTRUCTION: 140HP Larson Course covers basic boat and engine maintenance, launching, piloting, mooring, etc.

OUTSIDE CATERING: Whether it is for you and your family or for friends and associates our outside catering facilities can cater to all your needs. Offers traditional Iftar buffet suggestions. Banquets will be pleased to assist: 253000 ext 8008/8000.

Sheraton Hotel

HUNTR ROOM: Opens for Iftar with a buffet of exquisite delicacies. RICARDO: Will be opened for dinner with live entertainment by the new duo

— Franco + Regina. COFFEE SHOP: Will serve an Iftar buffet and regular dinner with special menu items such as grilled items, mazza, etc. Enjoy Suhour from 12 pm to 3 am.

LOBBY: Lady pianist Małgorzata Wejs plays in the lobby diwania after Iftar until the end of Ramadan.

professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Look good, feel great! Ladies' sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Sunday and Tuesdays from 9 am to 9 pm. Austrian instructor for swimming lessons. Courses start first week of every month

Ahmad Al Kart Racing

This week sees the final race meeting of the season with the Friday the 13th handicap race. All drivers are given a handicap according to their performance during the season, which means that everybody

has a chance to win a trophy. Racing starts at 1.30 pm and entrance is only 500 fils.

The new season starts in mid-September and we have lots of plans for improvements including the introduction of new classes of racing not seen in the Middle East before — watch the Arab Times for details this summer.

Yoga lessons

For fitness and slimming Kuwait International Hotel offers yoga lessons for ladies and men, every Sunday and Tuesday at 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm and on Friday from 10.30 am to 11.30 am. For more information contact Kuwait International's Recreation Department at 2530000 ext 8050 or Tanya on 5626529.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Hyderabad

The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad, (DECCEN), invites essays in either Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quli Qutub Shah — the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only).

The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadi and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990.

All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

PAC'S Silver Jubilee

THE organising committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle will celebrate PAC's Silver Jubilee on Thursday, the 27th April, 1990 at 9 pm. The programme will include variety of programme and "Sham-e-Ghazal". Our earlier artist will present his wonderful performance, and is being invited from Pakistan.

Reservations are open to all families. All are kindly requested to book their seats well before 15th April, 1990. For more information contact 4716258.

DENNIS, Wednesday, 18 April 5.30 pm; Thursday, 19 April 10.30 am.

THE Khalifa School will hold their monthly bazaar, Ramadan special, to coincide with the qirjaq's evening. Ramadan food hamper, dried herbs, Kashmiri shawls and carpets, used clothing, books and many more items will be on offer. It will be held between 8.30 pm to midnight.

The school is located on Taa won St, Al Bida, next to Regency Palace Hotel. All are welcome.

THE KHALIFA SCHOOL will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a Jive Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Rank and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

CALLING all Saligaeers... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel. No. 2406936 (Resi), Aloo Carvalho, 2411442 Res. 246121, America Remedios, Res. 3983348 and Paul D'Cruz: Res. 2444729, Tony Cordeiro off, 2415401, Res. 2412337.

THE Kuwait Little Theatre are presenting a St. George's Day Revue on Thursday 19 April in the Unity Centre, Ahmad, beginning at 7.30 pm (Please note the change of date to that previously advertised). Acts include Phil Thomas, June Woolston, The Kuwait Folk Group, and the Kuwait Singers. Tickets and tables can be booked by telephoning 3919759.

THE Kuwait Players will be performing "On Pink Paper In Black and White" on Wednesday and Thursday April 18 and 19 respectively. The play comprises of 3 one act plays and starts at 8.00 pm at the Universal American School. For tickets and more information contact 5629875 or 5640981.

From Kuwait Cosmos on 10th May 1990, at lawns of Hunting & Equestrian Club. (Pool-side) from 21.00 hrs unto

11.00 pm for an elaborate Iftar buffet with traditional specialities of your choice. Desserts prepared by our Arabic pastry chef. One guest complimentary for each group of 6 persons. Ext 8166.

LA PATISSERIE: Opens for take-away treats at 5.00 pm and stays open for Suboor until 2.00 am. Live entertainment in the lobby sets the mood for the evening. Ext 8014.

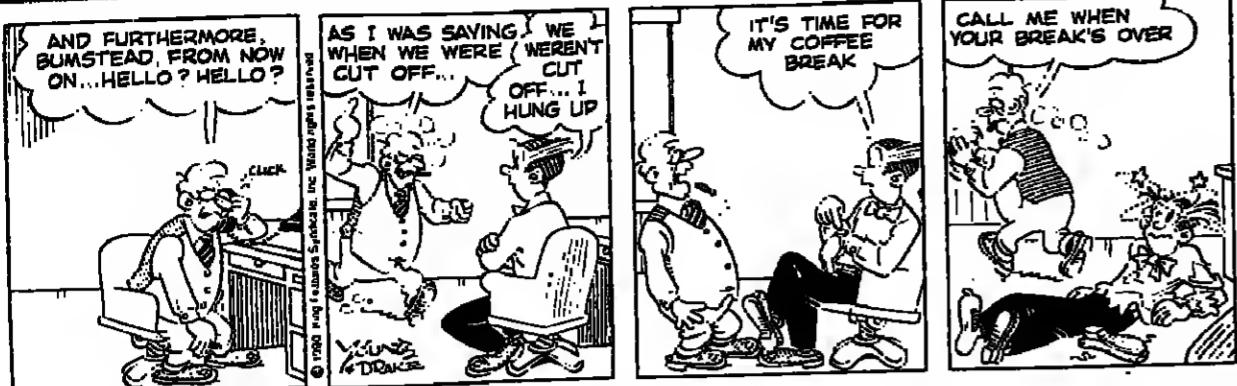
THE KHALIFA SCHOOL presents "The Dancer is the dance & dance is life"

On Monday, April 30 at 8 pm, Tuesday, May 1 at 8 pm, Wednesday, May 2 at 8 pm, Thursday, May 3 at 3 pm (matinee), Thursday, May 3 at 8 pm.

Tickets will be on sale from Saturday, April 14th from 4 pm — pm Saturday — Wednesday

LEISURE

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



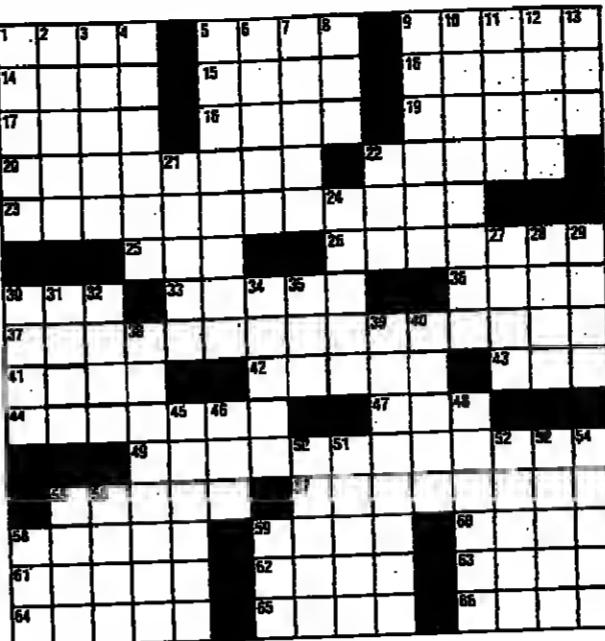
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

TOO MANY HIGH CARDS!

East-West vulnerable. South declarer's ace. After drawing two rounds of trumps, ending in dummy, declarer tried the club finesse; West's king won and two diamond tricks were banked by the defense. East shifted to the jack of hearts and declarer's only remaining decision was to choose which defender was to choose which defender won the setting trick in hearts.

South's problem was his hand had one too many court cards! Change the queen of clubs to an insignificant spot and declarer would surely have found the winning line.

After taking the first trick with the ace of diamonds, declarer should test trumps by cashing the ace from hand. Should either defender show out there is no recourse other than the club finesse. But when both defenders follow, declarer can claim the contract as long as clubs are no worse than 4-2.

Next, South cashes the ace of clubs and continues with the queen to West's king. Let's presume the defenders then take their two diamond tricks and, as before, East shifts to the jack of hearts. Declarer wins in dummy, ruffs a club high, returns to the table with a trump and ruffs another club to set up a long club in dummy. Declarer can get back to the board with a trump to discard his losing heart on the established club and claim his contract.

"I never hold any cards," is the standard lament of bridge players the world over. Here's a case where South could legitimately complain of too good a hand.

Even dyed-in-the-wool four-card majors would raise to two spades with the North hand. With three excellent trumps and a ruffing value, the more encouraging raise should clearly be preferred over a dampening one no trump. South's leap to game was automatic.

West led the eight of diamonds and East's jack was captured by declarer.

ACROSS
1 On -- equal
5 Pocket change
9 Before noon
14 19th cen.
French
illustrator
15 Popular name
in Oslo
16 Navigational
syst.
17 Owl howl
18 Telegram
19 Comes down in
buckets
20 Sweet potatoes
22 Consumed
23 New Zealand
city on the Avon
25 East Lansing
Univ.
26 Followed
30 &
33 Straight
36 Money, in
Naples
37 Arum family
member
41 "It's -- to
Tell..."
42 King of Tyre
43 Observe
44 Trattoria treat
47 Hoopster's org.
49 Joseph
Wambaugh
novel
55 Paris' —
Quarter
57 Clam's cousin:
Var.
58 Leaf of a
manuscript
59 Press
disclosure,
sometimes
60 "M*A*S*H" —
actor
61 Capital of Guam

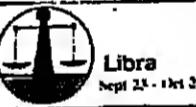
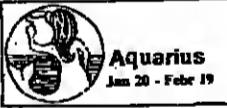
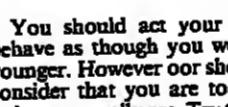
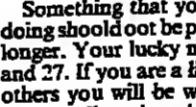
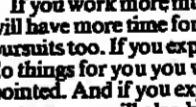
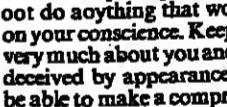
DOWN
1 Type of
committee
2 Fido, is one
3 Bellowing
4 Decorate again
5 Side
6 — artery
7 Fen
8 12/24 or 12/31
9 Liam's kin
10 Mountain base
11 Veritable
12 Merit
13 TLC dispensers
21 Japanese
immigrant
22 Stray
24 Express
27 Hot — Houlahan
of "M*A*S*H"
28 Put-in-Bay's
lake

23 Social
engagement
30 Slightly open
31 Space agcy.
32 504, to Cato
34 Moral
philosophy
35 Fraternity letter
38 Type of need
39 Gave way to
fear
40 Shadow
45 Resident of
Toledo
46 Dykstra or
Deighton
48 Wear away
50 Pay attention
to
51 Type of orange
52 Kukla's pal
53 Sing. Swiss
style
54 Rigging
supports
55 Theater box
56 Jai —
58 Craze
59 Romanian coin

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
T A L I S P R I Y A G N I
D I L D R T R I D L E D N E
A I G R A R E A R L O R I S
D I A N D I U A Y L E D R O N I S
N Y E T E U G E N E
H A D J I L D O N A T E
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P A L I M Y R A B E M U S E D
E R I L E G A R L A S T E D
S C O R E R C H A R Y
L I L S O N C O C A
I N L A W F I T Z W A T T E R
S P I K E A T I T A H O P E
D A U G E R D E E R A N D O N
T U R S E R R I S B E S T



YOUR STARS

Aries
March 21 - April 19Cancer
June 21 - July 20Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19Taurus
April 21 - May 20Leo
July 23 - Aug. 22Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18Gemini
May 21 - June 20Virgo
Aug. 22 - Sept. 21Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 22Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20

"I hope this divorce lasts longer than your last one."



"It woke me up two hours late with a cold cup of coffee."

July 1985

Fine arts

By Laura Van Tuyl

BOSTON, (CSM) Taking care of historic works of art seems a thankless job — done in the cluttered, isolated back room of museums.

But thanks to a small army of "conservators" — dressed in white coats and equipped with brushes, needles, and probes — some of the world's most treasured objects have been saved from complete ruin and decay under the weight of time.

At the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum here, Marjorie Bullock hunches over a 15th-century tapestry and gently pushes a threaded needle up through the bottom. Stitch by stitch, she fills the time-worn, frayed areas with new cotton threads of muted gold, brown, and blue.

Incredibly, Miss Bullock has been working painstakingly for 11 years to restore this 16-ft. x 13-ft. Flemish masterpiece. Sometime this year, she will finish the tapestry, and "Amazons Preparing for a Joust" will again grace the walls of the Gardner Museum.

If it were up to her, however, the restored tapestry would get rolled up and placed in storage, where it would be protected from the destructive elements of light, moisture, and air pollution.

But that is not an option at the Gardner, as it is at most museums.

"Mrs. Gardner wanted people to enjoy these things," says Bullock, conservator of textiles. Isabella Stewart Gardner, a wealthy woman of the Victoria era, was revered in her time, as she is now, as one of America's most generous, public-minded patrons of the arts. She built her own museum so the public could view her priceless art ... which over the years has earned international recognition.

The Gardner Museum must abide by its founder's mandate: The nearly 2,000 objects on display may never be added to, put in storage, or rearranged in any way. The staff is in a race against time to preserve these works, destined always to be exposed to the museum's environment.

Humidity, light, heat, dust, bugs, and car exhaust — all take their toll on the collection. Tapestries sag with moisture; metalwork corrodes; leather wall panels swell and shrink with shifting temperatures. In an unusual layout, three floors of galleries open onto a central courtyard, where natural light streams down through the glass roof.

The Museum of Fine Arts, just a few blocks away, does not have to deal with such a barrage of dangers. Unlike the Gardner, it has climate control, which includes air conditioning, air filters, and humidity regulation. In addition, the bulk of its collection is in storage.

But at the Gardner, even the flow of visitors is hazardous to the collection. "People get very close to things," says Barbara Mangum, conservator of objects. "Sometimes they even sit on the furniture or use the tables." In a way,

that's understandable, she says, since "the whole atmosphere is designed to make one feel comfortable" — like walking through someone's home. Mrs. Gardner actually lived in an apartment on the fourth floor, as did subsequent directors.

Misguided repair jobs of the past also cause decay. In one of the laboratories, Ms. Mangum holds up a chunk of a Greco-Roman marble sculpture from 50 BC. "His thigh fell off," she says. Back in the 1800s, someone drove iron dowels into the leg to hold it together. When rust forms around the iron, says Mangum, "that volume expansion causes the stone to crack."

Mangum must remove the twisted dowels and clean off traces of shellac and lead that were used as adhesive and filler. Then she'll glue the thigh back onto the body with a colourless, stable epoxy.

"The restoration" techniques here are very, very traditional," says Bullock, who has worked on textiles here for 20 years. This is no place to experiment with new-fangled ideas, she explains. The rule of thumb, adds her assistant, Ada Logan, is: "Whatever you do, make it so it can be undone" later, without ruining the object.

In the textile laboratory, conservators sit in front of tapestries wound up on long rollers and work on one unrolled section at a time. Various colours of cotton thread lie in clumps beside them. Bullock estimates it takes her about one month to complete one square foot of "Amazons Preparing for a Joust," not counting frequent interruptions.

"You have to use gentle-giant approach," says Ms. Logan, and this involves having a certain "feel" for textiles. Bullock says it's like watching people in a clothing store. "If you watch some people shop, they are aware of fibre and weave, whereas others just whip through the racks without any sensitivity to that."

Having an art background is paramount, too, she adds, "because you need to have the eye and the dexterity to know what you're seeing."

Unfortunately, "tapestries make great air filters," says Bullock. A Flemish tapestry called "Noah Builds the Ark" was recently rehung after being cleaned and restored. When it was taken down five years ago, the staff noticed a film of grimy, black grit on the wall, showing faint outlines of the tapestry's pattern.

"Tapestries trap everything that floats by in the air and basically stick it on the wall behind them," explains Bullock. Now, a Gore-Tex insulating barrier hangs behind "Noah."

The conservators look forward to the day when the Gardner Museum will be climate controlled, a goal now in the planning stages. The staff recently concluded a two-year environmental study to help determine what the needs are.

"The age of the collection is accelerating so



In the textile laboratory, Ada Logan repairs a tapestry



much," says Bullock, that it keeps a staff of nine full-time conservators going constantly. Early this year, the museum will be enlarging its conservation laboratories under the guidance of its new director, Anne Hawley.

The animal had vicious diarrhoea and the doctor prescribed arsenicum album — arsenic so diluted with milk sugar that the final capsule contains only one one-millionth of a gram of the poison. He



Barbara Magnum works on "thigh" dating from 50 BC

Pets

Herbal remedies are best

NEW YORK, (Reuter) For a cat with sneezing fits, try onion capsules as a cure. For an itchy dog, a dose of poison ivy. And for a constipated pet python, diluted strychnine.

So says maverick veterinary surgeon Dr C.W. Schaubhut, one of a growing number of homeopathic doctors whose treatments are based on a principle of "like treats like." The best remedy for an ailmee, they say, is one that mimics the symptoms.

People are paying hundreds of dollars a visit to have their pets treated with these age-old remedies made mainly from plants and minerals.

"We've just scratched the surface of what this is all about, even though it's old a tradition as any sort of medicine," Schaubhut said in his Manhattan clinic where he helped dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov's black standard poodle deliver pups.

Schaubhut relies on regular veterinary treatments for about a quarter of his patients. But the rest of the time, he says, sweeping his arm past hundreds of vials of natural remedies, all that's needed is a good dose of some of these to wipe away even the most stubborn of ailments.

Hysteria in your chihuahua? Heart disease in your ferret? Homesick ness? Arthritis? Diabetes? Schaubhut says he's got a cure for it all.

As he spoke, a stocky black dog, yelping and obviously in pain, sidled into the clinic. "Oh is that that Rottweiler?" Schaubhut grumbled. "I know him. He's really a rough guy."

The animal had vicious diarrhoea and the doctor prescribed arsenicum album — arsenic so diluted with milk sugar that the final capsule contains only one one-millionth of a gram of the poison. He

explained: "The arsenic causes the lining of the intestines to degenerate and you begin to bleed and hemorrhage and become very dehydrated." Small doses alert the body to the ailment and rally its own disease-defence system, he says.

This works? The dog's distraught owner nods.

In the waiting room, pet owners dole on their ailing animals.

Animals in the intensive care unit wake drowsy from surgery. They have had tumours, claws, or ear mites removed or have been neutered. Many will get homeopathic follow-up treatment.

A cat, whose vision was blurred and balance impaired after a picture fell on her neck, was given belladonna — "an herb named for beautiful Italian ladies who used to put it in their eyes to make their pupils dilate for flirting," Schaubhut said.

Rashes and skin eruptions are often treated with microdoses of poison ivy, and hayfever with onion absract — or octopus ink, depending on the time of day the sneezing fits occur.

The doctor's remedies are usually made from plants and minerals but he also uses "nosodes" — substances made from pus and other fluids. Some substances are extracted from solid tissues, such as tumours.

For a constipated python which had eaten eight or nine mice, the doctor prescribed nux vomica, the plant from which highly poisonous strychnine is derived. It worked in 24 hours.

Schaubhut is one of about 4,000 homeopathic doctors in the United States — only about 75 of these are vets — and the number is growing rapidly. Schaubhut has seen his business grow by about 50 per cent in the past five years and now sees about 4,000 animals annually.

Hi-tech restoration

Sphinx whispers 'save me' again

GIZA PLATEAU, Egypt (AP) Egypt is combining old photographs and American high technology in the most comprehensive save-the-sphinx campaign in 3,400 years.

Such an ambitious project was last undertaken in ancient Egypt's new kingdom, after a young pharaoh-to-be fell asleep in the shadow of the sphinx and heard it whisper: "Save me."

The new campaign, announced this week by Culture Minister Farouk Hosni, follows years of delay and disagreement over how to save the crumbling monument, a half-man, half-lion sculpted 4,600 years ago.

Last year, the Egyptian Antiquities Organization launched an emergency conservation project to remove and replace concrete blocks and mortar from the sphinx's front paws and haunches. The new project combines the Egyptian's hands-on restoration work with ultramodern monitoring equipment from the United States to discover why the sphinx is deteriorating and what to do about it.

Protective wooden scaffolding already climbs from the statue's chest to the top of its cobra-adorned headdress. The famous piercing eyes and subtle smile barely show through.

"I must find a way to save it..." said Sayed Tawfik, Egyptian Antiquities chairman. "I wanted somebody to say this is how we're going to save it. Not just for my lifetime, but for the next 2,000 years."

For the answer, Tawfik turned to the Getty Conservation Institute of Marina Del Rey, California, the only institute of its kind that searches for ways to save man's heritage and provides the money that make it possible.

Tawfik said it wasn't easy to find someone brave enough to seek with him a cure for the ailing sphinx.

"People, institutions, everybody is afraid to touch the sphinx, afraid they'd be blamed if something went wrong," he said. "We have a nickname for it, 'father of terror.' Everybody was terrified to help us, because the sphinx is so big and so famous."

"Even Getty, which is involved in other projects in Egypt, wasn't interested until they saw we were serious, that we were ready to do something instead of just babbiling and writing papers. We are serious."

Getty offered both financial and technical help. The budget for a year of monitoring is less than \$200,000, but the final price tag for saving the sphinx is likely to dwarf that.

Luis Monreal, the Getty Institute's director, told the Associated Press he's ready for the challenge.

"You have to imagine that although the sphinx has been around almost 5,000 years, it's been covered with sand for all but about 500," he said. Since the sphinx was last uncovered in 1925, it has been exposed to the

modern world 24 hours a day, and the sphinx is suffering."

"We cannot return the sphinx to the way it would have looked to the Pharaohs, but we are confident we can return it to the pristine look it had in 1925 if that's the look the Egyptians want."

The star of the project is a 200-pound (91kg), 6 1-2-foot-tall (2m) meteorological station, which will be perched atop the sphinx's back, anchored by sandbags.

Capable of recording data for one year, the unattended solar-powered monitor will record natural and manmade forces attacking the sphinx including traffic vibrations, changes in moisture, temperature and wind direction and the effects of sand, salt, water and earthquakes.

Japanese Shin Maekawa developed the system for Getty, which has used it for five months in a major preservation project in China.

At the sphinx, its job will be to discover what's causing erosion that has gutted almost every part of the mammoth limestone statue.

Experts predict the decay will increase dramatically as Cairo's 14 million population continues to expand.

The first major campaign to save the sphinx was the project of the Young Prince who later became Pharaoh Tuthmosis IV.

DOCTORS SEEK RIGHT DRUG COMBINATION TO EASE HYPERTENSION

Tension has been under control for at least one year, the possibilities for marching back down the steps may be considered. Drug dosage may be reduced, one drug at a time, and careful evaluation continues for a period of time. It may be possible to reduce the number of medications after a while, providing the pressure remains at normal levels. However, it is rarely possible to stop all the medications. The step-down procedure is most successful in patients who have mild hypertension and when all those good lifestyle measures are rigidly maintained.

I thought you would like to know. A friend tip from a devoted reader who knows that I share this problem with him has led me to a valuable resource for those who suffer that annoying and distracting chirping in the ear that physicians call "tinnitus." And I know there are many of you, for statistics reveal that about 12 million Americans have tinnitus in a severe form, and many millions more have it to a lesser degree.

The American Tinnitus Association, P.O. Box 5, Portland, Ore. 97207, was founded in 1971 by Dr. Charles Unice, himself a sufferer from severe tinnitus. Devoted to encouraging research in this field, it also provides a rich source of information to those who want more knowledge about this condition. You can obtain a packet of material by sending your request directly to the above address, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed, business-size envelope with 45 cents postage affixed. The booklet "Noise: Its Effects on Hearing and Tinnitus" is certainly one you should study carefully, and then pass on to younger relatives, as an educational effort that may help them avoid the whistling in the ear you may be hearing as you read this.

In a new book on the US malaise, one of the country's leading economists, Paul Krugman, notes that over the past two decades, productivity has increased by little more than one per cent a year, real wages have fallen and poverty increased.

But, although the United States has been slipping relentlessly, Krugman says, "The remarkable fact is that our economic performance today is broadly considered a success."

According to Krugman, a professor of economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the reason is that expectations have diminished and Americans now accept far less for themselves than anyone could have imagined 20 years ago.

To hear Krugman tell it in a book entitled "The Age of Diminished Expectations: US Economic Policies in the 1990s," the United States will fail to number three behind Europe and Japan by the year 2000 if things continue as they are.

They probably will, says Krugman. "The US economy is so huge and the size of economic policy so comparatively trivial that we can afford to be irresponsible for a long time."



The Sphinx

On the record

Heritage sticks to roots

because of the Banjo's presence, but this session has more of a jazz and blues feel to it on both the ballads and the uptempo tunes, all of them Fleck originals, including *Reflection of Lucy*, an extensive reworking of Lennon and McCartney's *Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds*.

The band includes Howard Levy on piano, harmonica and Jew's harp; Victor Wooten on electric bass, and Roy Wooten who plays electronic drums on a custom-designed synthetically gutted body.

From the funkiness of *The Sinister Minister* to the elegant balladry of *Half Moon Bay* there is an incredible array of moods spun here, as if Fleck is celebrating the richness of his broad musical roots.

But don't try to label the music of this astonishing player. Enjoy it.

Pop, Rock, Venice, *Venice* (Modern 91351-4)

Like the city in California for which it is named, the band Venice is extraordinary.

The group — which boasts two alternating lead vocalists, two brothers, two cousins and three close friends — hopes to create its own legend, starting with its self-titled debut release *Venice*.

Both sides carry a consistent sound and harmony reminiscent to that of Steely Dan and the Eagles.

Gimmicks are out and reality is in for Venice.

Pop, Earth, Wind and Fire, *Heritage* (Columbia, 7464-45268-1)

IN the '70s, Earth, Wind and Fire found itself on the cutting edge of a fused musical form that crossed racial lines and gave even flatfooted white people a beat they could dance to.

Disco could have grown in the 1980s, had it been left to quality banks like Earth, Wind and Fire rather than the scores of near-latents that eventually dug disco's grave.

EWF sticks to its roots in its latest project, *Heritage*, a 17-cut recording that features the core members of the original band and includes some cuts funkster Sly Stone and Rappers the Boys and M.C. Hammer.

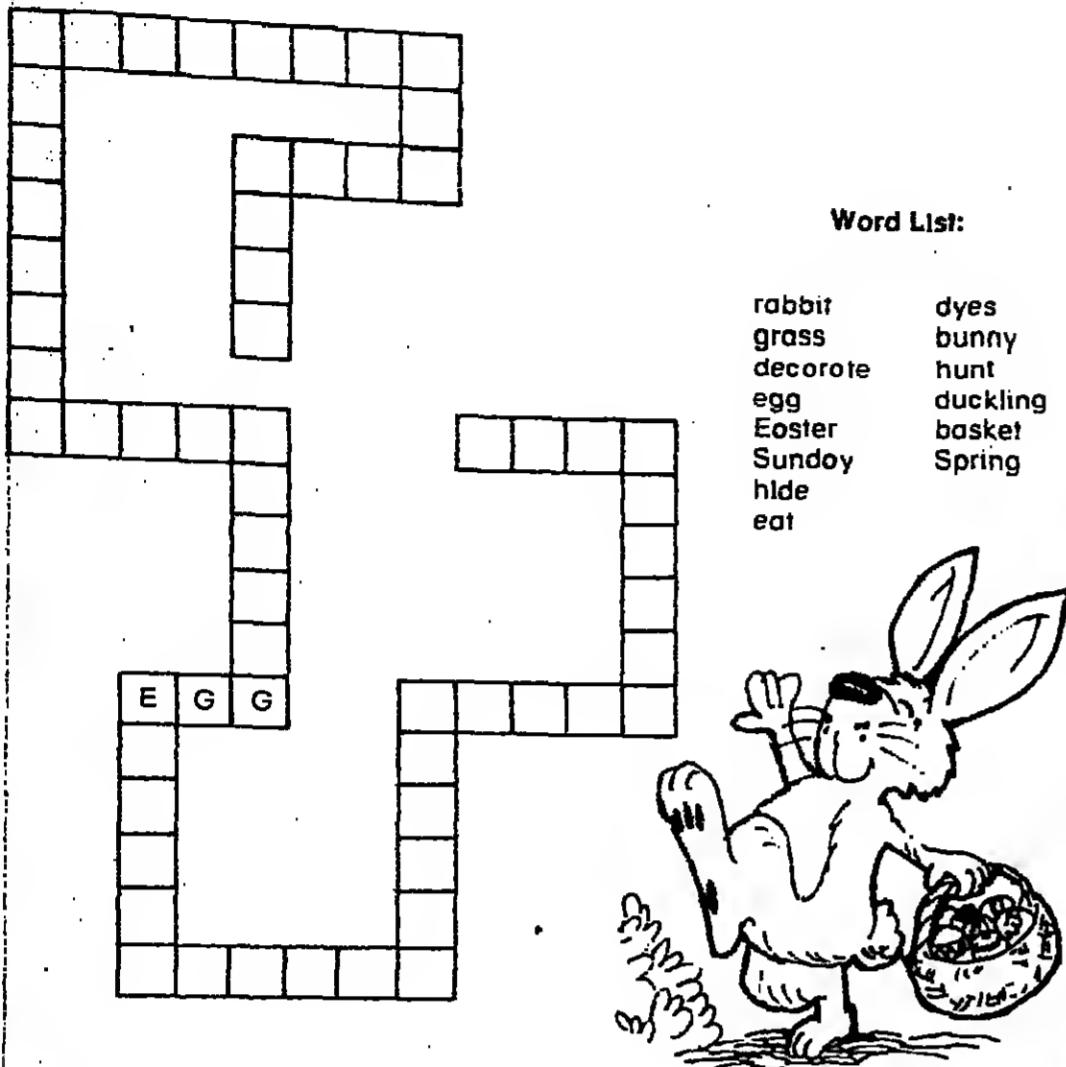
There is an inherent disco beat to the music on *Heritage*, which is likely to turn some people off. But anti-disco sentiment aside, there is not much that EWF's lyrics are emotional and intelligent and far beyond what is commonly offered by copycat bump-and-grind bands.

Jazz, pop, country, *Bla Fleck and the Flecktones* (Warner Bros., 9 26124-2)

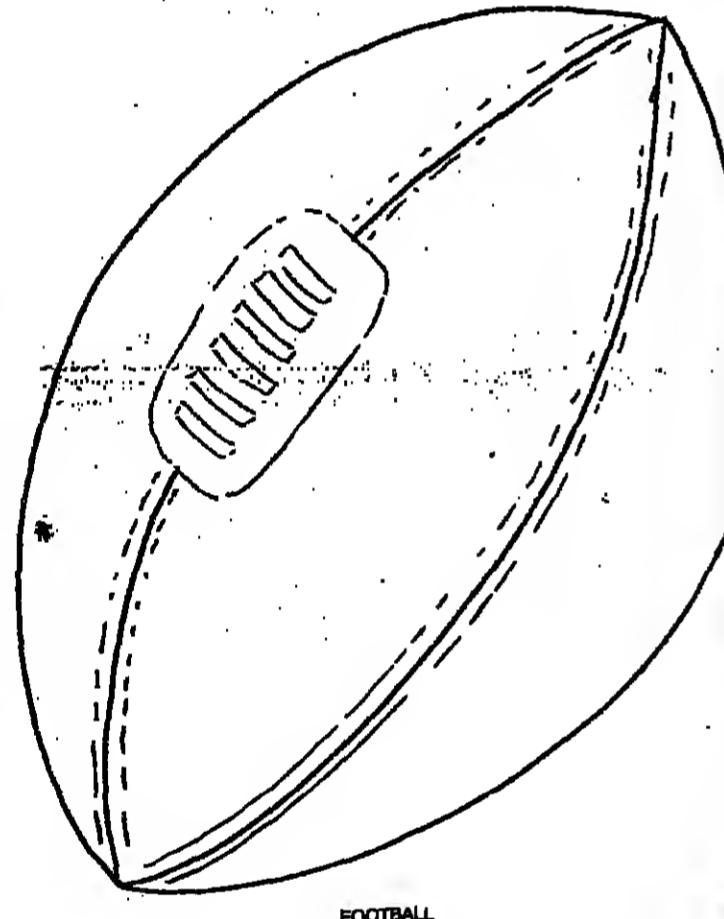
With the incredible new grass revival on bold, young Banjo Wizard Bla Fleck is striding down his own musical path these days with a funk band and a sound that defies categorisation.

Easter Trail Blazer

Directions: Place the words from the word list in the boxes to form a continuous trail. Place one letter in each box. Corner boxes are shared with two words. One word has been done for you.



Colouring time



The end of the story

Look carefully at the big pictures in each group. Then colour in the small picture which shows the most likely end to the story.



Cliff had just formed his own pop group, and his little brother said one day, 'Cliff, I wish you and your group could be on the telly!' 'You think we're good, eh?'



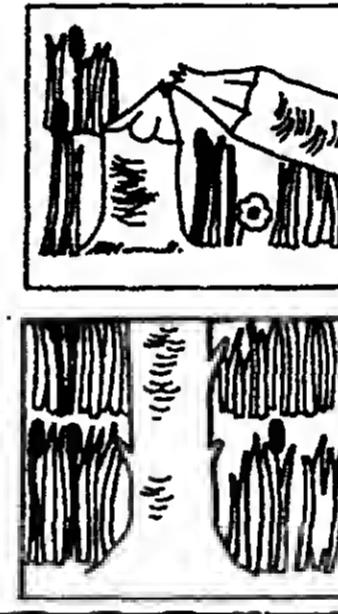
Just for laughs!

'Then I could turn you off!'

'Mum, can I go out and play?'

'What in those clothes?'

'No — in the park.'

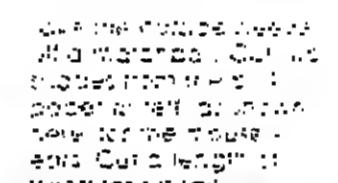


Your mother's in an asylum, your father's in gaol, your brother's in Borstal and your sister's at university?

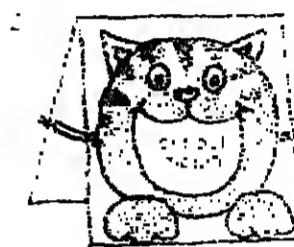
'S'right.'

'What is she studying?'

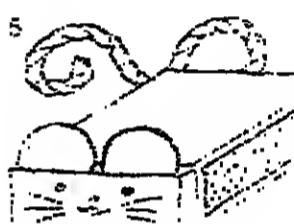
'She ain't. They're studin' er!'



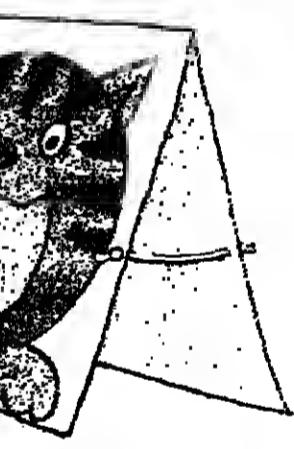
Cat & Mouse



On the back of the card draw or print a cat's face as big as possible. Cut out the face for the mouse.



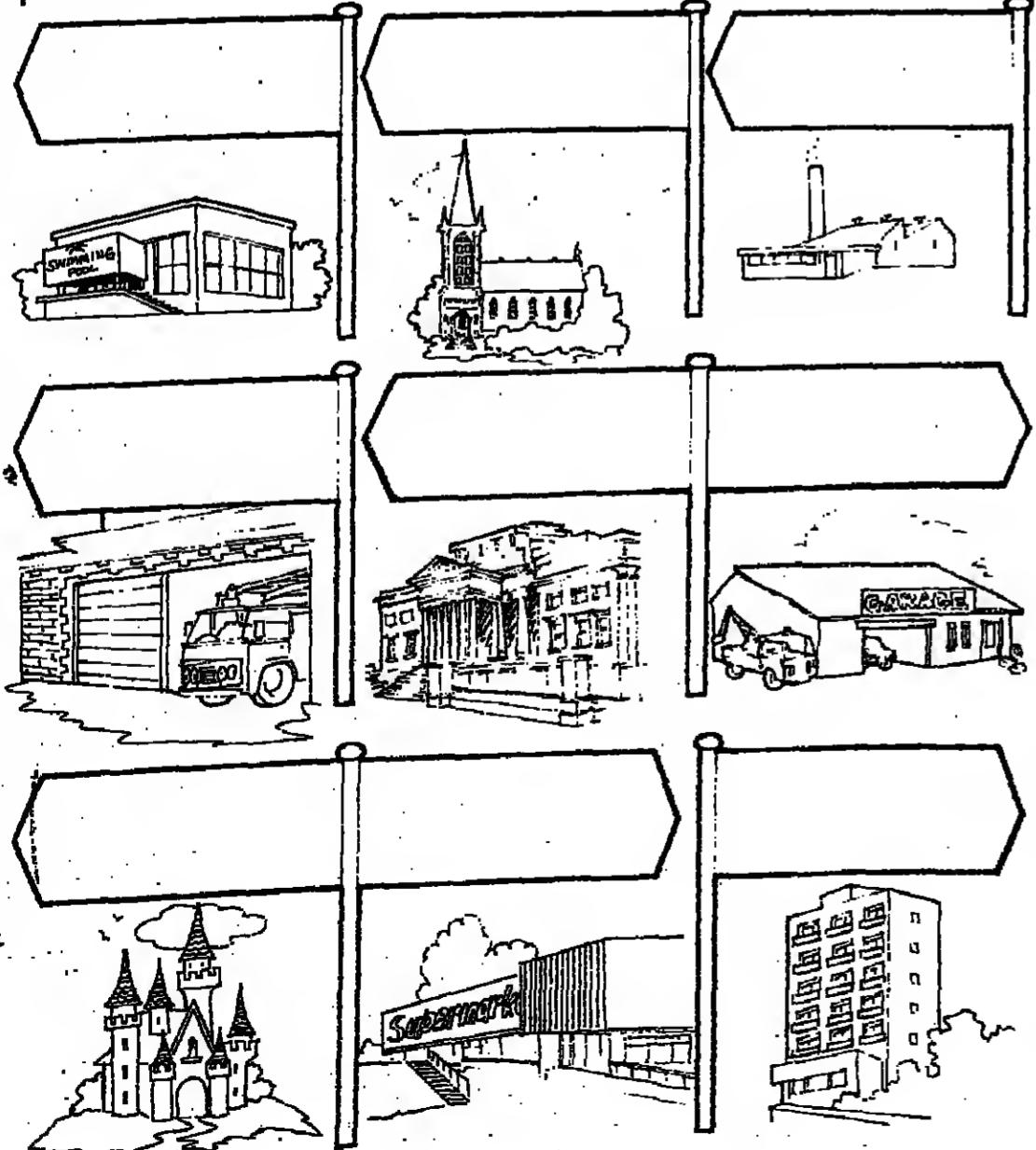
Push the mouse and tail into the hole inside the box. Fix the box with plasticine or elastic to support the tail.



How many mice does the cat catch the mouse? Make several mice and play the game with a friend.

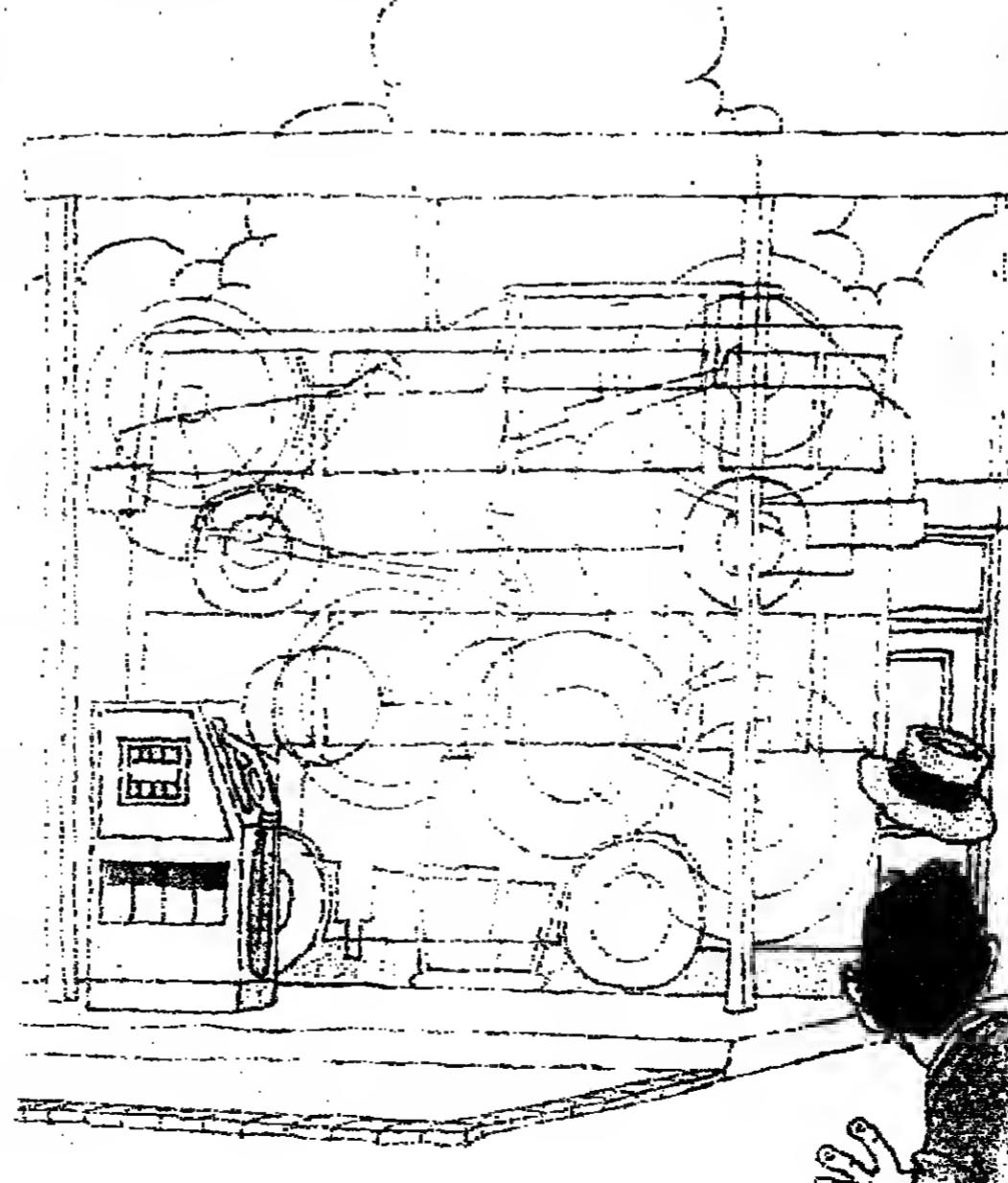
Buildings

Write the names of the buildings on the sign posts.



On the road

The picture below shows five different vehicles that you might see on the road. Unscramble the outlines to find out what each one is.



Wordsearch

UP AND UP

ASPARAGUS	CELERY	LEeks	PUMPKIN
BEANS	CORN	LETTUCE	RADISH
BEETS	EGGPLANT	ONION	SPINACH
BERRIES	GARLIC	PARSNIP	SPROUTS
BROCCOLI	GREENS	PEAS	SQUASH
CABBAGE	HERBS	PEPPER	TOMATO
CARROT	JICAMA	PICKLE	TURPIN
CAULIFLOWER	KALE	POTATO	

E	H	S	A	U	Q	S	U	G	A	R	P	S
G	C	C	I	L	R	A	G	G	E	X	Y	M
G	A	U	B	E	A	N	S	N	L	B	B	A
P	N	O	T	A	T	O	P	U	A	M	C	S
L	I	O	C	T	T	J	R	V	K	I	V	M
A	P	L	S	A	E	P	O	M	J	B	P	M
N	S	A	M	C	C	L	U	K	E	I	R	W
T	C	O	R	N	L	T	K	I	H	C	C	B
S	T	S	S	S	N	S	N	P	P	K	S	L
E	H	T	C	N	N	P	O	Y	T	L	C	F
I	S	E	C	T	E	I	R	K	L	E	S	I
R	I	E	T	P	N	E	P	P	I	N	R	T
R	D	B	P	O	L	I	O	J	X	Y	R	T
E	A	E	L	E	E	K	G	Z	J	T	A	A
B	R	O	C	C	O	L	I	E	G	A	B	A

Children's radio network to hit airwaves this summer

By Sue Morgan

PHILADELPHIA, (UPI): Kids already have a television network with programme just for them and a group of Philadelphia entrepreneurs hoping the younger set will take just as enthusiastically to radio tailored to their tastes.

The Kidwaves Radio network is to hit the airwaves this summer with 13 hours a day of programming for kids, from news to storytelling to music.

"This network will battle illiteracy in our country," said Kidwaves President McI. Diamond, "we're exposing children to programming ... so we can stimulate their creativity and imagination."

"That is severely lacking when they have only one other medium to choose from — the visual medium," Diamond said.

Kidwaves hopes to stimulate its young listeners with programmes

including "what do you know," a quiz show, "All about kids," an interview programme. Musical time machine," which will introduce kids to classical music, and "story stew," featuring storytelling and performances of classic stories.

The network's co-founders are Linda Katz and Marcus Moon, who set up the Children's Literacy Initiative, and Ragan Henry, a Philadelphia attorney who owns the largest group of FM stations in the United States.

"It's not A-B-C-D-E-F-G, not at all," Diamond said of the programming mix. "It's entertaining to the child and to the parent. That's critical, because many parents are going to tune in to this in the car."

"My feeling is the initial listening will be as a result of the parents, and the rest will be a desire to hear more," Diamond said.

Kidwaves is also hoping schools will tune in to all or part of its programme

ming.

"Certainly, schools will have the opportunity to tune in to us and use the programming in their curriculum," Diamond said. "We will programme it so that children who are at school will have programming directed for their age group when they get home."

"Most of the programmes will be produced in-house," said Diamond, "and aimed at children from 2 to 11 years old."

"It's not just a disk jockey playing records and that's what is so good about it," Diamond said. "It's all pre-produced for children."

Kidwaves' initial sales pitch is aimed at AM radio stations that operate only during the day, do not have sister FM stations or that broadcast simulcast programming from sister FM stations.

"All those groups represent AM stations that aren't making money and

are in fact losing money," said Diamond, who previously worked with a National Hispanic network and a national satellite music network.

The financial factor has convinced Diamond it will be easy to lure targeted station owners to substitute Kidwaves for their present formats.

"Once they see by switching to Kidwaves they can make a profit and reduce their operating costs by a third, I think reason will take over," Diamond said.

The network already has signed up affiliates in Houston and Kansas City. Although Kidwave's stated goal is to combat illiteracy, Diamond readily admits the network is in business to make money.

"I don't believe that having a good goal like that is mutually exclusive to the thought of earning a profit at the same time," Diamond said. "If you can serve the community while earning a profit, you have the best of both worlds."

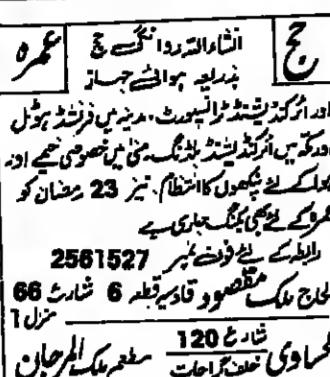
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SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Porto triumph

ISBON, April 9. (Reuters): Porto extended their lead over second-placed Benfica in the Portuguese soccer First Division to four points when they scored a 2-1 away win over Tirsense yesterday.

Spanish appeal

ZURICH, April 9. (Reuters): The appeal by the Spanish Football Federation against a record 1.5 million Swiss francs (\$590,000) fine for contravening the rules on television transmissions will be heard here next month.

New tournament

BEIJING, April 9. (AP): The Asian Football Confederation said today the national teams from China, Japan, South Korea and North Korea will meet in Beijing this July to inaugurate a new biannual soccer tournament.

PSV topped

AMSTERDAM, April 9. (Reuters): Ajax displaced PSV Eindhoven at the top of the Dutch soccer First Division yesterday with a 1-0 win at Groningen while PSV were held to a goalless draw by Volendam a day after saying they would part company with their coach.

Soccer violence

BONN, April 9. (UPI): Weeks of mounting violence among soccer fans in East Germany culminated in incidents in the southern city of Jena, where fans threw signal ammunition at police and smashed windows, the German news agency ADN said yesterday. The clashes occurred Saturday, the regular day for league play. At Jena, where the local team played FC Berlin, a policeman was hit in the face by signal ammunition fired by fans, apparently West Germans.

Africa tourney

RABAT, April 9. (Reuters): Title-holders Raja of Casablanca beat mighty Barolos of Liberia 2-0 in the first round of the Africa Champions' Cup at the Mohammed V stadium in Casablanca on Saturday night.

Matar champion

ROMA DE JANEIRO, April 9. (Reuters): Luiz Matar of Brazil defeated the Rio de Janeiro Open tennis title and gained revenge for a Davis Cup defeat when he beat Andrew Snider of Canada 6-4 6-4 in the final yesterday.

Sanchez wins

ROMA, April 9. (Reuters): Third seed Emilio Sanchez Vicario of Spain overwhelmed unseeded France Davin of Argentina 6-3 6-1 to the final of the \$250,000 Estoril Open tennis tournament yesterday.

Cycling race

ROUBAIX, France, April 9. (AP): Belgium's Eddy Planckaert edged Canada's Steve Bauer in the final inches of the Paris-Roubaix Cycling Classic yesterday, winning the 265.5-kilometer race in 10 hours, 40 minutes and 40 seconds.

Racing engine

LONDON, April 9. (Reuters): Britain's House racing and Ilmor Engineering announced a partnership venture yesterday to develop and manufacture a Formula One motor racing engine.

Soccer tourney

LISBON, April 9. (AP): Portugal will host the junior soccer World Championship tournament June 14-30 next year, the deputy president of the National Soccer Federation announced yesterday.

Ice hockey

LYON, France, April 9. (AP): Switzerland downed France 4-1 yesterday to clinch the title in the World B Ice Hockey Championship. The Swiss team finished its round-robin slate with 12 points and will advance to the A group next year. However, it will come a year too late for Switzerland, which is hosting the A group tournament later this month but did not qualify for it in 1989.

LONDON, April 9, Reuter: Crystal Palace, dismissed by many soccer fans as no-hoppers, caused one of the biggest shocks in recent English FA Cup history yesterday when they beat holders Liverpool 4-3 in extra time to reach their first final.

Second Division Oldham completed a day of semifinal surprises when they took the lead against Manchester United after five minutes, went 2-1 behind, equalised and ended the tie after extra time with a richly-deserved 3-3 draw.

England captain Bryan Robson, starting his first senior match for United since a groin strain in December, rallied his team with an equaliser in the 29th minute.

The replay will be at Manchester City's Maine Road ground on Wednesday with the final played at Wembley on May 12. Oldham have already earned one trip to Wembley on April 29 to face holders Nottingham Forest in the League Cup final.

Palace, thrashed 9-0 by Liverpool in the League earlier this season, twice came back from a goal down to finish 3-3 at the end of regulation time.

A goal in the 109th minute at Villa Park made sure of Palace's first Cup final appearance in the 85th existence of the club.

Striker Alan Pardew, a bargain buy from Minor League side Yeovil, headed the winner from



Webb, scored one for United

close range after Andy Thorn had flicked on a corner from Andy Gray in the 109th minute.

Welsh international striker Ian Rush had put Liverpool seeking a record fourth Cup final place in five years, 1-0 ahead when he scored his 23rd goal of

the season in the 14th minute. Soon afterwards he left the field with bruised ribs.

Palace, dangerously close to relegation in the First Division, forced their way back with a powerful goal by winger Mark Bright in the opening minute of the second half.

Gary O'Reilly put Palace 2-1 ahead after 70 minutes but two goals in two minutes for Liverpool seemed to have swung the game out of Palace's reach with only seven minutes remaining.

First, Steve McMahon thundered home an equaliser in the 81st and then Liverpool won a controversial penalty when John Pemberton tripped Steve Staunton. England striker John Barnes calmly put the holders 3-2 ahead.

But Palace refused to give up and equalised three minutes before time with a Gray header after a goalmouth scramble.

They almost stole the match in the dying seconds of normal time when Thorn thumped a header against the bar.

"We hung ourselves... foot-ball-wise we were better than them but they were better organised at set-pieces and that won them the game," Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish said.

He cited the absence of defender Gary Gillespie, substituted at half time due to a groin strain, but had helped.

"It restores your faith in foot-

ball when the favourites don't always win," delighted Palace manager Steve Coppell said.

Oldham substitute Roger Palmer kept his team's hopes of a League and FA Cup double alive with a goal in the 107 minutes after Manchester United made it 3-2 in the 92nd.

Like Liverpool, manager Alex Ferguson's expensive United had twice nosed in front only to have their fifth final in 14 years snatched away, at least temporarily, by their poorer city neighbours.

Earl Barrett had taken advantage of a mistake by goalkeeper Jim Leighton to clip home Oldham's first goal.

Robson, having scored for the first time in seven months, was substituted in the 71st minute by Danny Wallace and within seconds England international Neil Webb headed home.

It was Webb's first goal since he returned to United last week after an eight-month lay-off through injury.

But four minutes later Oldham's Ian Marshall hit his sixth goal of the season to take the match to extra time.

Ninety seconds into the first period, Wallace rushed on to a pass in the area and slid the ball inside the post but Palmer made sure nothing would wreck manager Joe Royle's 41st birthday with the equaliser to ensure the replay.

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Stevens may miss finals

LONDON, April 9, (Reuters): England defender Gary Stevens may miss next June's World Cup soccer finals in Italy after suffering a suspected broken leg yesterday.

Salvatore Schillaci, who made Italy's debut against Switzerland in Berne a week ago, scored his 14th goal of the season in the 20th minute from Alessio's second free-kick.

Results

Ascoli	1	Udinese	0
Atalanta	0	Napoli	0
Bari	0	Parma	0
Bologna	0	AC Milan	0
Verona	1	Genoa	0
Inter	0	Cesena	1
Juventus	1	Crotone	0
Roma	0	Fiorentina	0
Sampdoria	1	Lecco	0

US triumph

ST LOUIS, April 9. (Reuters): Striker Eric Wynalda scored two first-half goals to lead the United States to a 4-1 victory over Iceland in a World Cup soccer warm-up match yesterday.

An attack-minded US squad, heading to the World Cup finals for the first time in 40 years, dominated play throughout.

Defender Steve Trottchuk opened the scoring for the US with a header past Iceland goalkeeper Bjarni Sigurdsson in the 16th minute.

Wynalda gave the US a two-goal lead with a header to the far post in the 30th minute and seven minutes later made it 3-0 on a deflection off a free kick.

The far more aggressive US team, which outshot Iceland 17-6, added to their commanding 3-0 halftime lead when Bruce Murray scored on a header off a well-timed cross.

Gulf rugby team returns home

THE Arabian Gulf rugby team returned home after taking part in the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Bank Sevens last week. The tournament was won by Fiji after they defeated New Zealand 22-10 in one of the most dramatic finals seen in Hong Kong's National Stadium.

How much New Zealand's defeat can be attributed to the game they had to play against the Arabian Gulf the previous day is hard to determine but the Gulf side certainly gave their all against the current world champions.

In fact the game almost had the most dramatic of starts when Steve Hill of Kuwait won the kick off ball from Zinzan Brooke, the ball was kicked on and knocked on just before the New Zealand line. The New Zealanders paid the Gulf the compliment of fielding their strongest team which included names as Zinzan Brooke, John Schuster, Terry Wright and Graeme Bachup.

Whilst the Gulf were eventually overcome they did manage to come close to scoring on three occasions, once scoring a try through Hill which was disallowed only due to the incompetence of the referee and much to the dissatisfaction of the crowd.

The second game saw the Gulf lose to South Korea who had too much pace. Thus Sunday saw the Gulf with a tough draw against Sri Lanka in the quarterfinal of the Bowl competition. In this game the Gulf lived up to their



Navratilova overcame Capriati

Navratilova wins 150th singles title

Gilbert triumphs easily

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C., April 9. (Reuters): Experience triumphed over youth yesterday as top seed Martina Navratilova defeated Jennifer Capriati 6-2 6-1 to claim her 150th career singles title at the \$500,000 Hilton Head clay court tennis tournament.

Navratilova, ranked second in the world, earned \$100,000 for her efforts and moves to within seven titles of Chris Evert's record 157 by winning here for the third time.

But the top seed, 19 years older than her unseeded opponent, had to play her serve and volley best to stop the 14-year-old American, who is expected to come in at 25th in the world after completing the minimum number of events needed for a ranking.

"I was nervous and excited," admitted Navratilova. "I don't think she was intimidated. It was every hit as tough as I had expected."

Navratilova controlled the match with her strong serve and by attacking net early and often against Capriati, who had not had much experience against left-handers.

Navratilova successfully fought off the three break points she faced and broke Capriati in the fifth and seventh games of the first set and the third game of the second set.

But Capriati, twice a finalist in just three tournaments since she turned professional last month, came up with several spectacular winners and chased down shots that would have been well out of reach for most players.

Over the course of the match Capriati ripped numerous crosscourt backhand passes that demonstrated she will be a force to be reckoned with on the women's circuit.

"It was the greatest feeling of my life," said Capriati, who earned \$40,000. "Here I was playing a legend."

In Orlando, Fla., top-seed Brad Gilbert overwhelmed third-seeded South African Christo van Rensburg 6-2 6-1 in just 50 minutes yesterday to win the \$250,000 Orlando Tennis Classic.

Gilbert, a classic counter-puncher, controlled play from the outset and never allowed the 31st-ranked Van Rensburg into the match.

The American, ranked fifth in the world, broke Van Rensburg in the fifth and seventh games to take the first set.

In the second set, Gilbert allowed Van Rensburg to hold his serve just once — in the opening game — before running off six successive games with the help of three service breaks.

"I played really well," said Gilbert, who lost the final here last year to compatriot Andre Agassi by the same score.

"I played my best match of the tournament. I just matched up well against him. I've beaten him five times," added the US Davis Cup member after claiming his 19th career title.

Gilbert earned \$32,400 for his victory, but appeared somewhat shocked to hear that Martina Navratilova had won \$100,000 for winning a women's clay court event earlier in the day.



The Gulf players with the W. German team

FINLAND's Markku Alen will start first in the 1990 Marlboro Safari Rally which begins in Nairobi on Wednesday. The Subaru Legacy of Alen and co-driver Kiki Kivimaki was the first out of the drum at the unique ceremonial draw for top starting positions which was held in the Kenyan capital.

After some 15 years competing for the Italian Fiat Lancia works team, the two Finns have moved to Subaru this season. The Safari will mark not only their debut for the team but also the debut of the Legacy in the World Championship arena.

The car which the pair will drive in Kenya is the five-speed version developed by the Japanese division of the team. A six-speed version, developed in Europe, is expected to make its debut later in the year, with Alen again at the helm.

"We have been testing, testing very hard," commented Alen. "We first came to Kenya last December to do as much high speed testing as

possible but then we blew an engine. We came back in January for more tests, then again in March. The car has been very good. Very strong. In fact, the car is much happier now that I have left-hand drive car. And the power steering makes the cornering so much better. Kiki and I are very positive — but the weather! Incredible rains!"

The torrential storms, which have been causing floods throughout Kenya in the past month, are a constant topic of conversation for the competitors.

"It is literally raining everywhere. The roads are in an unbelievable state. I have never seen the Taita Hills so bad," commented Fricsson.

"I have never seen such bad roads in Kenya," added Waldegard.

"We have been testing, testing very hard," commented Alen. "We first came to Kenya last December to do as much high speed testing as

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<p

England chase 356 runs for victory

W. Indies strike three vital blows

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, April 9. (Reuters): West Indian pacemen Ian Bishop and Curly Ambrose struck three vital blows yesterday to put their side in charge of the fourth cricket Test against England.

At the close of the fourth day England, needing 356 to win, were 15 for three in their second innings. England lead the five-Test series 1-0.

England lost three wickets in eight overs after Viv Richards had declared the West Indies' second innings closed at 267 for eight with opener Desmond Haynes scoring 109.

The tourists made the worst possible start when Wayne Larkins was caught behind off Bishop in the first over for his second duck of the match.

Then in the day's penultimate over, Roh Bailey was given out caught behind off Ambrose for six and nightwatchman Gladstone Small was out lbw second ball for nought.

Television replays appeared to indicate Bailey's deflection had come off his thigh pad and the England batsman was clearly dismayed at the decision.

A second nightwatchman, Jack Russell, came in and survived an over from Malcolm Marshall before had light ended play with 16 overs still remaining.

England had forced the West Indies to declare considerably later than Viv Richards would have wanted by a direct imitation of their opponents' go-slow tactics in the Third Test.



Haynes: scored his 13th Test ton

They bowled only 62.2 overs in five and three-quarter hours and although the West Indies scored at almost four per over Richards did not feel it was safe to declare any earlier.

England also bowled a tidy line and length after 61 runs had been scored in the first hour when Devon Malcolm, not learning

was lbw to Phil DeFreitas for 39, which included two pulled fours and a six off Malcolm, a brake was applied on the scoring.

Haynes reached his 50 from only 62 balls but was much slower thereafter, reaching his 13th Test hundred from 170 balls with 10 fours.

Haynes' stand with Gus Logie was worth 114 in 30 overs, the two batting through the afternoon session. But when Haynes, trying to force the pace, was out to a well-judged catch at long-off by Malcolm off Small, five wickets fell for only 16 runs.

Logie, who made 48, was lbw after DeFreitas and soon afterwards the Barbadian-born Small, by dismissing Marshall and Ezra Moseley in successive deliveries, had accounted for all four Bajans in the West Indies' side. Marshall drove to long-on and Marshall was clean bowled.

Ambrose was caught at wide long-on off the persevering DeFreitas in the following over before a further 28 were scored by Dujon and Bishop.

Small, with four for 74 from 20 overs, finished with eight wickets in the match while DeFreitas deservedly picked up three for 69 from 22 overs.

■ Injured England cricket captain Graham Gooch was pessimistic yesterday about his chances of playing in the fifth and final Test against West Indies.

Gooch, who broke the little finger on his left hand in the second innings of the drawn third Test, will learn tomorrow if the

two metal pins inserted after the blow by Ezra Moseley will be removed.

"I think the surgeon is recommending the pins are not taken out so it's going to be very difficult for me to play in Antigua," Gooch said yesterday.

"It feels quite good and there is no real pain, but if I get hit again it could put me back a month. I'm hoping to be fit for the start of the English season."

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES first innings 446 (C. Lamb 164, V. Richards 70)

ENGLAND first innings 358 (A. Lamb 91, R. Smith 82; I. Bishop four for 70)

WEST INDIES second innings (overnight 19-1)

G. Greenidge lbw b small 3

D. Haynes c Malcolm b Small 109

R. Richardson lbw b DeFreitas 39

V. Richardson c Small b Capel 12

G. Logie lbw b DeFreitas 48

E. Moseley lbw b Small 5

M. Marshall c Smith b Small 7

J. Dujon not out 15

I. Bishop not out 11

Extras (lb-12 W-1 nb-4) 17

Total (for eight wickets) 267

Fall of wickets: 1-13 2-83 3-109 4-

223 5-228 6-238 7-238 8-239

Bowling: Malcolm 10-0-46-6, Small 20-1-74-4, Daftaitan 22-2-69-3, Capel 16-1-66-1.

ENGLAND second innings

A. Stewart not out 4

W. Larkins c Dujon b Ambrose 0

G. Smith lbw b Ambrose 0

R. Bailey c Dujon b Ambrose 6

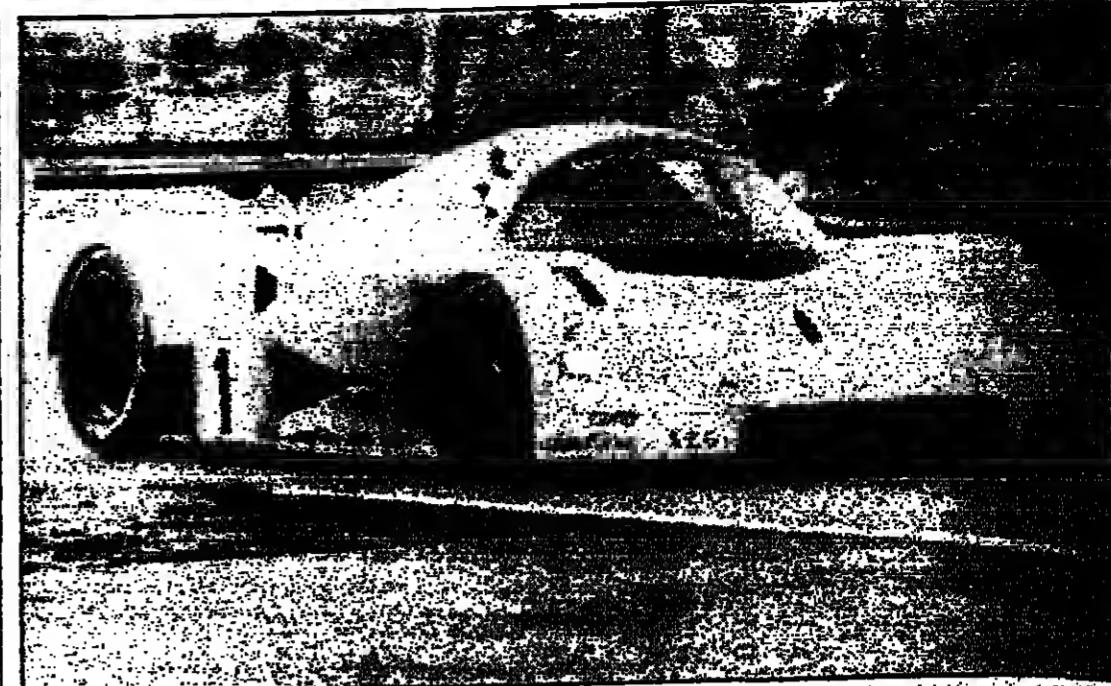
J. Russell not out 3

Extras (lb-2) 2

Total (for three wickets) 15

Fall of wickets: 1-1 2-103-10

Bowling (to date): Bishop 4-1-7-1, Ambrose 4-2-6-2, Marshall 1-1-0-0.



The Mercedes of Schlesser and Baldi on its way to victory (Reuters wirephoto)

Mercedes dominate opener

SUZUKA, Japan, April 9. (Reuters): World sportscar champions Jean-Louis Schlesser of France and Italian Manro Baldi powered their Mercedes to victory in the opening round of the season yesterday despite being troubled throughout by a fuel leak.

Mercedes, who dominated last year's championship with seven wins in the eight races, also took second place through West German Jochen Mass and Karl Wendlinger of Austria but it was a day of despair for main rivals Jaguar.

Neither of their cars completed the three-hour race. Jan Lammers of the Netherlands and Andy Wallace of Britain retired shortly after the halfway mark and the car of Briton Martin Brundle and Frenchman Alain Ferte broke down five laps from the finish.

The defending champions, who completed the 480 kms, 82-lap race in two hours 43 minutes 45.420 seconds, took the lead in the 57th lap when they passed the Mercedes of Mass and Wendlinger.

The result confirmed Mercedes' strength in depth. The team had to abandon plans to use their new C11 car after it was damaged in a crash during practice on Saturday.

Japan's Masahiro Hasemi and Sweden's Anders Olofsson in a Nissan battled to finish third one lap behind the winners.



Schlesser splashes champagne on the crowd after his victory (Reuters wirephoto)

Prost clocks fastest time at Imola track

IMOLA, Italy, April 9. (Reuters): Alain Prost, in a Ferrari, set a best lap time of one minute 24.75 seconds at the Imola Formula One track during unofficial practice yesterday for the San Marino Grand Prix on May 13.

The Frenchman, averaging 214.1 kph, bettered the time set in the morning by his arch rival Ayrton Senna, whose 1:25.13 in a McLaren was just inside the previous best of 1:25.33 the Brazilian set at Imola last March.

Only the Ferrari, McLaren and Williams teams stayed at Imola throughout the week's practice sessions which were frequently interrupted by bad weather but ended in bright, dry conditions yesterday.

■ Prost said in an interview published yesterday that he will not stay with Ferrari if Senna joins the Italian team.

Prost came to Ferrari earlier this year after leaving McLaren-Honda and his bitter rival Senna, who won the 1988 championship.

"It is out of the question that I be with the same team as Senna, at Ferrari or anywhere," Prost was quoted as saying.

"I committed myself to concentrating on giving my best for the 1990 season. For next year I have an option with Ferrari. I have to decide at the end of August or the beginning of September," when the name of the second driver will be known.

"If it is Senna, I will say no and Ferrari knows that well," Prost was quoted as saying.

Swedes make perfect start

GOTHENBURG, Sweden, April 9. (Reuters): Sweden made a flying start to their bid for a ninth European men's team table tennis title yesterday, beating Austria 5-0 despite world champion Jan-Ove Waldner.

Despite their status as world title-holders, the Swedes had been worried about their opening match because of the presence of two strong Chinese players, Ding Yi and Qian Qianli, in the Austrian team.

But the defending champions dropped only two games—both to Ding— in a swift victory which must have made their other Group B rivals tremble.

"The others know we must be a very strong team to beat Austria and their two Chinese 5-0 without Waldner," delighted coach Glenn Ost said.

Waldner, whose form has been patchy since he beat compatriot Jorgen Persson for the world crown in Dortmund a year ago, was rested because of a slight hand injury but he was not expected to be out of action for long.

Ding, 31, took a game off Olympic bronze medallist Erik Lindh and one off reigning European singles champion Mikael Appelgren. But Appelgren strode back in the deciding game to finish a 12-21 25-23 21-6 winner.

England, the silver medallists at the 1988 European championships, also dropped only two games in winning their opening round-robin match against the Netherlands 5-0 in Group A.

Sprint star

LONDON, April 9. (AP): American sprint star Carl Lewis is considering a multi-million dollar offer from a Canadian team, John Johnson, according to a British news report yesterday. The tabloid Mail on Sunday said Lewis, who replaced Johnson as Olympic champion in Seoul after the Canadian 400-meter winner was banned for drugs abuse, would decide within the next few weeks whether they would race.

Sauers triumphs

HATTIESBURG, Miss., April 9. (Reuters): Gene Sauers won the \$200,000 Hattiesburg Classic golf tournament by two strokes yesterday after firing his second consecutive two-under-par 68 for a 12-under-par total. Jack Ferenz carded a final-round three-under-par 67 to finish 10-under 270 and claimed second place.

Monaghan wins

POWELL, Calif., April 9. (Reuters): Kris Monaghan's dream came true yesterday when she shot a final round four-under-par 67 to win the \$300,000 LPGA tournament, her first victory on the US Women's Golf Tour. "This is what I have dreamed about my whole life," said Monaghan after finishing at eight-under-par 276 plus two strokes ahead of Cathy Gering.

Two-shot victory

VALENCIA, Spain, April 9. (Reuters): Fiji's Vijay Singh won the El Bosque Open golf tournament by two strokes yesterday, then paid tribute to his pregnant wife who had accompanied him throughout the four rounds. Singh shot a three-under-par 69 in the final round for a 278 total to win by two strokes from Britons Richard Boxall and Chris Williams.

Nascar race

BRISTOL, Tennessee, April 9. (AP): Davey Allison beat Mark Martin in a photo-finish yesterday in the Valleydale 500 Nascar race at Bristol International Raceway.

RESULTS

RESULTS of the SAS Bridge Club game played on Sunday.

1st N. Akel & L. Morthwaite

2nd D. Materny & B. Moussall

3rd M. Maynard & N. Telle

Results of the Maharashtra Men's annual Individual Bridge Tournament played on Friday.

1st Shyam Gokhale

2nd Jayshree Sapre

3rd Jayant Bhagwat

4th Vivek Kekre

5th Anju Javahire

Rainey wins Grand Prix

MONTEREY, Calif., April 9. (Reuters): American Yamaha rider Wayne Rainey survived a crash-marred US Grand Prix motorcycle race yesterday to score his second victory in as many races this year.

Rainey, who won the season opener in Japan, completed the 35-lap, 76.86-mile (123.69-km) race at the Laguna Seca Racetrack in 50 minutes 55.379 seconds to take a commanding lead in the world championship hunt with 40 points.

Pierfrancesco Chili of Italy, who inherited third place on his Honda as leaders fell out of the race, stood second in the championship standings with 24 points.

Australian Michael Doohan finished the race second on his Honda in 51:25.765, 29 seconds ahead of Chili.

Rainey's three principal rivals all suffered crashes.

Australian Honda rider Wayne Gardner went out early at the same corner where he crashed and broke an ankle last year.

"It was just a stupid mistake," said Gardner, who was not seriously hurt.

American Kevin Schwantz crashed his Suzuki 10

laps from the finish after staging a race-long duel with Rainey and retired with an injury to his left wrist.

Defending world champion Eddie Lawson of the US broke his right heel in a crash during Friday's qualifying and did not race.

The day's most serious injury was to Australian Kevin Magee, whose fifth-lap crash forced the race to be restarted.

Magee was later reported to be in critical but stable condition last night following successful surgery to remove a blood clot from his brain.

Magee lost control of his Suzuki coming out of the sixth turn—a high-speed left turn just before a steep climb—and was sent flying head first into the dirt track side.

Magee, 27, lay motionless beside the track, but was reported conscious when airlifted by helicopter to the San Jose Medical Centre 55 miles (88 km) from the Monterey, California race course.

Following the two-hour operation, Magee was moved to the hospital's intensive care unit where he will be monitored closely for the next 48 hours, the family said in a statement.

Animal rights campaigners express outrage

LONDON, April 9. (Reuters): Animal rights campaigners have called for a public inquiry after seven horses were killed at the Aintree Grand National meeting, including two in Saturday's big race won by 16-1 chance Mr.

Brook. John Robins, organising secretary of Animal Concern has written to British Home Secretary (Interior Minister) David Waddington expressing outrage at the carnage, and requesting a public inquiry.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) is also seeking a meeting with the Jockey Club, the

sports ruling body in Britain.

Robins said: "We have a national event that is so well publicised but the reality is that it is killing animals for the sake of sport and profit."

After the deaths of two horses which fell at Becher's Brook in 1989, the obstacle was made safer this year by levelling the landing side and making the water in the ditch much shallower.

"If it is Scenna, I will say no and Ferrari knows that well," Prost was quoted as saying.

Faldo joins Jack Nicklaus

as the only players ever to repeat as Masters champion and the Briton achieved his success just as he had